

	Mac Pro Tower	Mac mini	Intel NUC Kit NUC6i7KYK	Comments
Base Price	\$200-\$300	\$699	\$569	Mac tower has been discontinued but you can still buy preowned hardware. We chose the mid-level Mac mini (\$699) for comparison fairness.
Processor	Intel Xeon 5150 2.66 GHz dual-core	Intel Core i5 3230M 2.6-3.5 GHz dual-core	Intel Core i7 6700K 4.0-4.65 GHz quad core	Processor comparisons Xeon 5150 v. i5 3230M Xeon 5150 v. i7 6700K i5 3230M v. i7 6700K You can update the Mac mini to an i7 processor for \$300.
Graphics	Nvidia GeForce 7300 GT	Intel Iris Pro HD 5100	Intel Iris Pro 580	Graphics card comparisons Nvidia GeForce 7300 GT v. Intel Iris Pro HD 5100 Nvidia GeForce 7300 GT v. Intel Iris Pro 580 Intel Iris Pro had 5100 v. Intel Iris Pro 580 Apple hasn't officially released info on the Mac mini's exact graphics chipset, so we used specs from EveryMac.com for comparisons.
RAM	4 GB PC2-5300 667 MHz	8 GB LPDDR3 1600 MHz	Crucial 16 GB SODIMM DDR3L 1066 MHz	Out-of-the-box NUC Kits do not include RAM. We installed 16 GB DDR3L SODIMMs for \$108 each. The Mac mini is upgradeable to 16 GB for \$200.
Storage	256 GB Serial ATA 7200 RPM	1 TB Serial ATA 5400 RPM	Samsung 850 EVO 1 TB SATA III internal SSD	<u>Out-of-the-box NUC Kits do not include internal storage. We installed 250 GB SSDs (\$109 each) for a good performance/capacity mix, but use a 1 TB SSD here for comparison fairness.</u> You can upgrade the Mac mini to a 1 TB Mac Fusion Drive (1 TB Serial ATA 5400 RPM + 24 GB SSD) for \$200.
Comparison Purchase Prices (per unit)	\$200 - \$300	\$1,399	\$997	Mac mini upgrades: Intel Core i7 processor (\$300); 16 GB LPDDR memory (\$200); 1 TB Fusion Drive (\$200) NUC Kit Config Upgrades: 16 GB DDR3L memory (\$108); 1 TB SSDs (\$320)