

How Much to Cook When You Cook for a Crowd

When cooking for a crowd, one of the biggest questions is knowing how much to cook. Here are some tables to help you determine how much food to cook for our guests.

Main Courses

Entree	Per Person	Crowd of 50	Crowd of 75
Baby-back ribs, pork	1 pound	50 pounds	75 pounds
spareribs, beef short ribs			
Casserole	N/A	4 to 5 13x9 inch	6 to 7 13x9 inch
		casseroles	casseroles
Chicken, turkey, or duck	½ pound	25 pounds	38 pounds
(boneless)			
Chicken or turkey (with	34 to 1 pound	38 pounds	57 pounds
bones)			
Chilli, stew, stroganoff, and	5 to 6 ounces	15 pounds	23 pounds
other chopped meats			
Ground beef	½ pound	25 pounds	38 pounds
Maine lobster (about 2	1	50	75
pounds each)			
Oysters, clams, and	6 to 10 pieces	200 to 260 pieces	300 to 360 pieces
mussels (medium to large)			
Pasta	4 to 5 ounces	16 pounds	25 pounds
Pork	14 ounces	44 pounds	66 pounds
Roast (with bone)	14 to 16 ounces	47 to 50 pounds	42 to 45 pounds
Roast cuts (boneless)	½ pound	25 pounds	38 pounds
Shrimp (large – 16 to 20 per	5 to 7 shrimp	14 pounds	21 pounds
pound)			
Steak cuts (T-bone,	16 to 24 ounces	16 to 24 ounces	16 to 24 ounces
porterhouse, rib-eye)		per person	per person
Turkey (whole)	1 pound	50 pounds	75 pounds

Soups and Stews

Soup or Stew	Per Person	Crowd of 50	Crowd of 75
Served as a first course	1 cup	2½ gallons	4 ¾ gallons
Served as an entree	1 ½ to 2 cups	4 gallons	6 gallons

Side Dishes

Side Dish	Per Person	Crowd of 50	Crowd of 75
Asparagus, carrots, cauliflower,	3 to 4 ounces	8 pounds	12 pounds
broccoli, green beans,			
corn kernels, peas, black-eyed peas,			
and so on			
Corn on the cob (broken in halves	1 ear	45 ears	70 ears
when serving buffet-style)			
Pasta (cooked)	2 to 3 ounces	7 pounds	10 ½ pounds
Potatoes and yams	1 (medium)	12 pounds	18 pounds
Rice and grains (cooked)	1½ ounces	5 pounds	7½ pounds

Drinks

Type of Drink	Per Person
Soft drinks	1 to 2 eight-ounce servings per hour
Punch	1 to 2 four-ounce servings per hour
Tea	1 to 2 eight-ounce servings per hour
Coffee	1 to 2 four-ounce servings per hour