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Braunschweig brewery Wolters will close on Dec. 31 after insolvency.

The shutdown ends beer production at the historic 1627 site, where about 90 employees now face uncertainty.

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Hofbrauhaus Wolters, a brewery in Braunschweig with roots dating to 1627, will stop operating on Dec. 31 after insolvency and prolonged financial strain forced the company to shut down production, ending beer brewing at the site for now and

affecting about 90 employees.

The closure marks a major break for one of Braunschweig’s best-known traditional businesses. The company had struggled for some time and was ultimately unable to reverse its financial decline. Insolvency proceedings were opened on Sept. 1, and the brewery is now preparing to end operations in December.

The immediate causes were weak sales, higher production costs and a business climate that has become harder for regional brewers. Rising expenses have put pressure on breweries across Germany, especially smaller and mid-sized producers that have less room to absorb higher energy, raw material, packaging and logistics costs. At the same time, softer demand has made it harder to pass those increases on to consumers.

In Wolters’ case, efforts to stabilize the business did not produce a lasting turnaround. As a result, the company said it had no viable path to continue brewing at the Braunschweig plant. The shutdown means a long-established local producer will disappear from active manufacturing, at least in its current form, even if the brand itself could still have a future under different ownership or a different operating model.

For workers, the decision creates immediate uncertainty. About 90 employees are affected by the closure. The company is seeking solutions for the workforce and for the future of the brand, but there has been no clear indication yet of whether jobs can be preserved through a sale, a restructuring of remaining activities or another arrangement tied to the insolvency process.

The decision has also drawn concern in Braunschweig because of the brewery’s long place in the city’s history. Wolters has been part of local business and cultural life for centuries, and city officials have reacted with concern over the loss of a company seen as part of Braunschweig’s heritage. Support options for the region are being examined, although it remains unclear what form any local response could take.

The brewery’s shutdown also matters beyond Braunschweig. In the beverage industry, the closure reflects the growing pressure that is pushing brewing toward further consolidation. When a regional brewer leaves the market, the effects can extend beyond the factory gate, potentially changing local beer supply for bars, restaurants

and retailers and raising questions about whether long-standing labels will remain available in the same form. The loss of a production site can also weaken the position of independent and regional brands in a market where larger groups often have broader distribution and stronger pricing power.

That broader industry pressure has been building for years. Regional brewers have had to compete in a mature beer market while coping with changing consumer habits, cost inflation and tighter margins. Traditional brands with strong local recognition can still face major operational problems if volumes fall and fixed costs remain high. For companies with older facilities or narrower regional reach, that pressure can become especially hard to manage.

In Braunschweig, the shutdown means the brewery’s grounds and brand are now at the center of the next phase of the insolvency process. Questions remain over whether the site can be reused, whether parts of the business can be preserved and whether the Wolters name will continue under a new structure. For now, the operating decision ends an era in the city’s brewing industry and leaves the future of one of its oldest beer brands unresolved.