vinetur

China’s September beer production fell 7.8%, deepening the industry’s slump

Output reached 27.88 million hectoliters, extending a 6% decline over the first nine months of 2026 that signaled weaker factory activity

Thursday, November 12, 2026



China’s beer production fell further in September, extending a broader decline across the first nine months of 2026 and pointing to weaker factory activity in one of the world’s largest brewing markets.

Data published by Zhiyan Consulting on Thursday, November 12, and attributed to China’s National Bureau of Statistics, showed that beer output totaled 289.47 million hectoliters from January through September, down 6% from the same period a year earlier. The figures cover physical production rather than sales or consumption and apply to industrial companies included in China’s official production statistics.

For September alone, beer production reached 27.88 million hectoliters. Zhiyan Consulting said that represented a 7.8% year-over-year decline, a sharper contraction than the 6.5% drop reported for August. That means the annual rate of decline worsened by 1.3 points from one month to the next.

A sector table published by the China Brewing Industry Information Network on October 21 showed that output fell from 33.42 million hectoliters in August to 27.88 million hectoliters in September. That was a month-to-month drop of 5.54 million hectoliters, or 16.58%, without seasonal adjustment.

The figures suggest that pressure on China’s brewing industry continued into the end of the third quarter. Beer production is closely tied to activity across packaging, glass, aluminum, logistics and agricultural supply chains, including barley and other brewing inputs. A sustained decline in output can affect plant utilization and purchasing across those sectors, even if it does not directly measure retail demand.

The November 12 publication did not amount to a fresh official statistical release. Zhiyan Consulting’s note repeated production figures that had already circulated in October, according to the source material reviewed. The data were presented as a secondary publication based on official statistics rather than as a new release from the statistics bureau itself.

The same source also included an important methodological caution. The published year-over-year rates do not match exactly with a simple division of the historical output levels shown in the industry table. Because of that, the data should not be used to calculate an exact absolute year-over-year loss in volume or to assume that the comparison base is identical across all series.

Even with that caveat, the broad direction of the data is clear. Beer production in China was lower both in September and across the January-to-September period than it was a year earlier, and the annual decline in September was steeper than in August. That trend adds to signs of softness in industrial activity tied to brewing and related manufacturing chains.