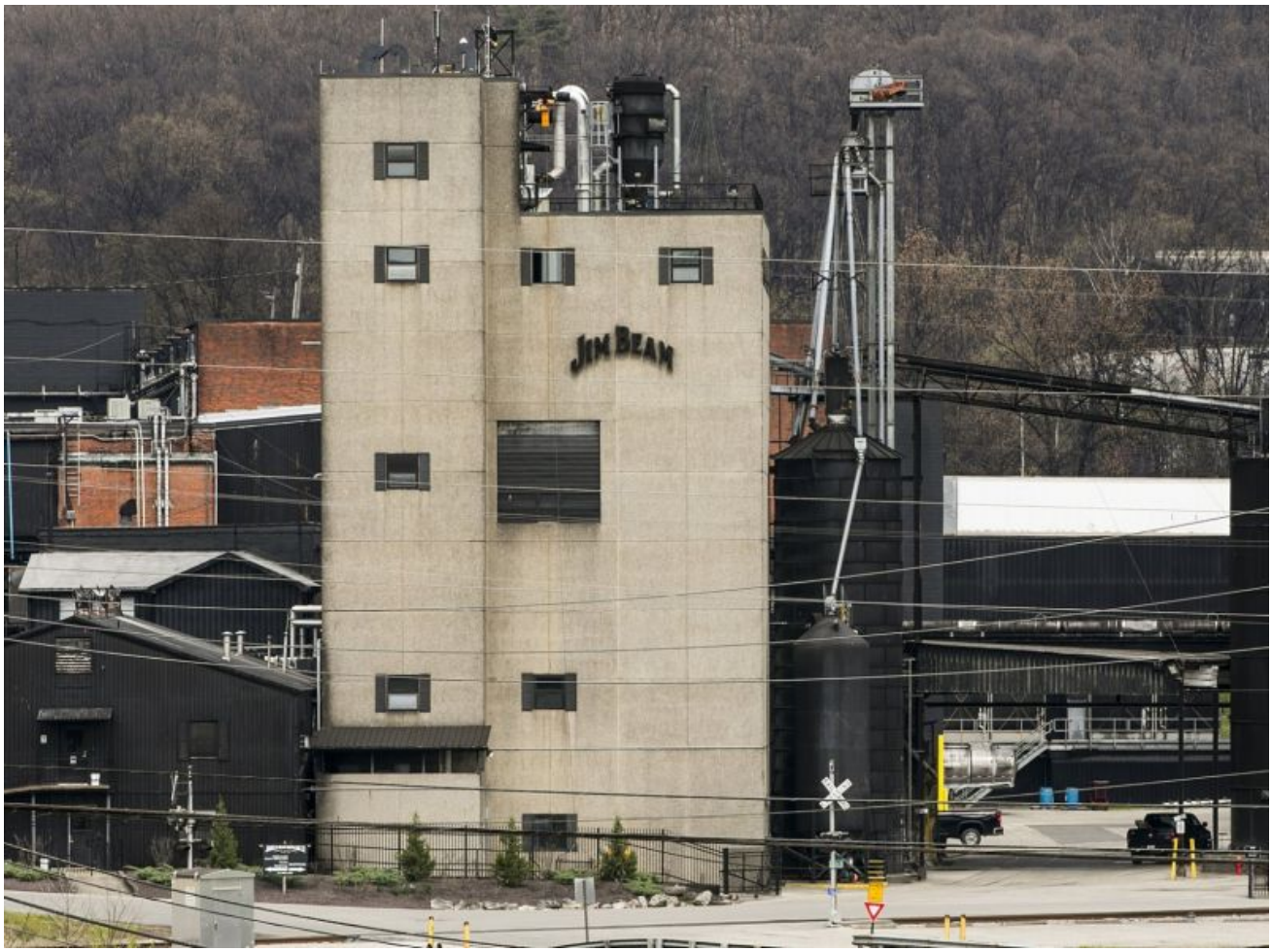
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Jim Beam Extends Clermont Distillery Shutdown Through the End of 2027

The company is concentrating production at another facility during a modernization project at its main Kentucky bourbon site

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Jim Beam has extended the suspension of distilling at its main facility in Clermont, Kentucky, through the end of 2027, adding a full year to a stoppage that had previously been expected to last through 2026, according to a report published Monday, November 16, by Louisville Business First.

The report said the company is keeping production concentrated at another facility while it modernizes the Clermont complex. The extension means the site’s main distilling operations will remain offline for all of 2026 and all of 2027, rather than returning sometime during 2027 under the earlier timetable.

The move affects a major bourbon installation in Kentucky, but it does not mean Jim Beam has stopped making bourbon altogether. The available information links the prolonged halt to construction and modernization work and to the shifting of production capacity within the company’s network, not to a full stop in the brand’s output.

No estimate for lost production was published with the report, and no firm reopening date beyond the end of 2027 was disclosed. The information also does not provide a basis to calculate any change in Jim Beam’s sales, inventories or market share from the extended shutdown alone.

The decision is significant because Jim Beam remains one of the largest bourbon labels in the world. VinePair, citing data from The Spirits Business’ Brand Champions report, said Jim Beam led American whiskey brands globally in 2025 with sales of 16.7 million nine-liter cases. That scale makes any shift in the brand’s manufacturing footprint notable for the bourbon industry, especially in Kentucky, where production capacity and aging stocks are closely watched by distillers, distributors and retailers.

Clermont has long been associated with Jim Beam’s identity in the U.S. bourbon market. An extended pause at its main distillery suggests the company is willing to rely on other parts of its production system for a longer period while it updates one of its best-known sites. The published information, however, does not specify how much of Jim Beam’s output is being reassigned, which other facility is carrying the load, or whether the modernization will change long-term capacity once the Clermont site resumes distilling.

Jim Beam is part of Suntory Global Spirits, the New York-based spirits subsidiary of Japan’s Suntory Holdings. In company materials for 2025, Suntory Global Spirits said it had about 6,000 employees across nearly 30 countries. Suntory Holdings reported consolidated revenue of 3.4325 trillion yen in 2025, including alcohol taxes, a figure that reflects the broader group rather than only its distilled spirits business.

That corporate scale gives the company flexibility to move production within its system while carrying out major upgrades, but the public information so far leaves important questions unanswered. Louisville Business First reported the extension of the Clermont halt, yet no public figure was attached to the cost of the project, the expected capacity of the modernized site or the amount of bourbon being redirected elsewhere during the work.

For Kentucky’s bourbon sector, the development points less to a retreat by the brand than to a longer industrial adjustment at one of its most visible production centers. Jim Beam remains a high-volume label with wide distribution, and the company’s strategy, based on the information now available, is to keep supplying the market by concentrating output outside Clermont while the main site undergoes upgrades.

The change also highlights how a large bourbon producer can stretch out a plant overhaul without signaling a broader shutdown of the brand. Still, because the company has not published a detailed operating plan alongside the extension, it remains unclear how the longer pause in Clermont will affect future production scheduling, warehouse flows or the timing of a restart once the modernization work is complete. No production-loss estimate, financial impact or more precise reopening date has been made public.