

# Risky Business

What You Need To Know About...

## Craft Breweries



A craft brewery is an independent brewery. Breweries of this scale produce smaller amounts of beer as compared to their large-scale corporate counterparts. The term "craft" has to do with the fact that these breweries emphasize quality beer and tend to view beer production as an art form driven by passion and finely-honed techniques.<sup>1</sup>

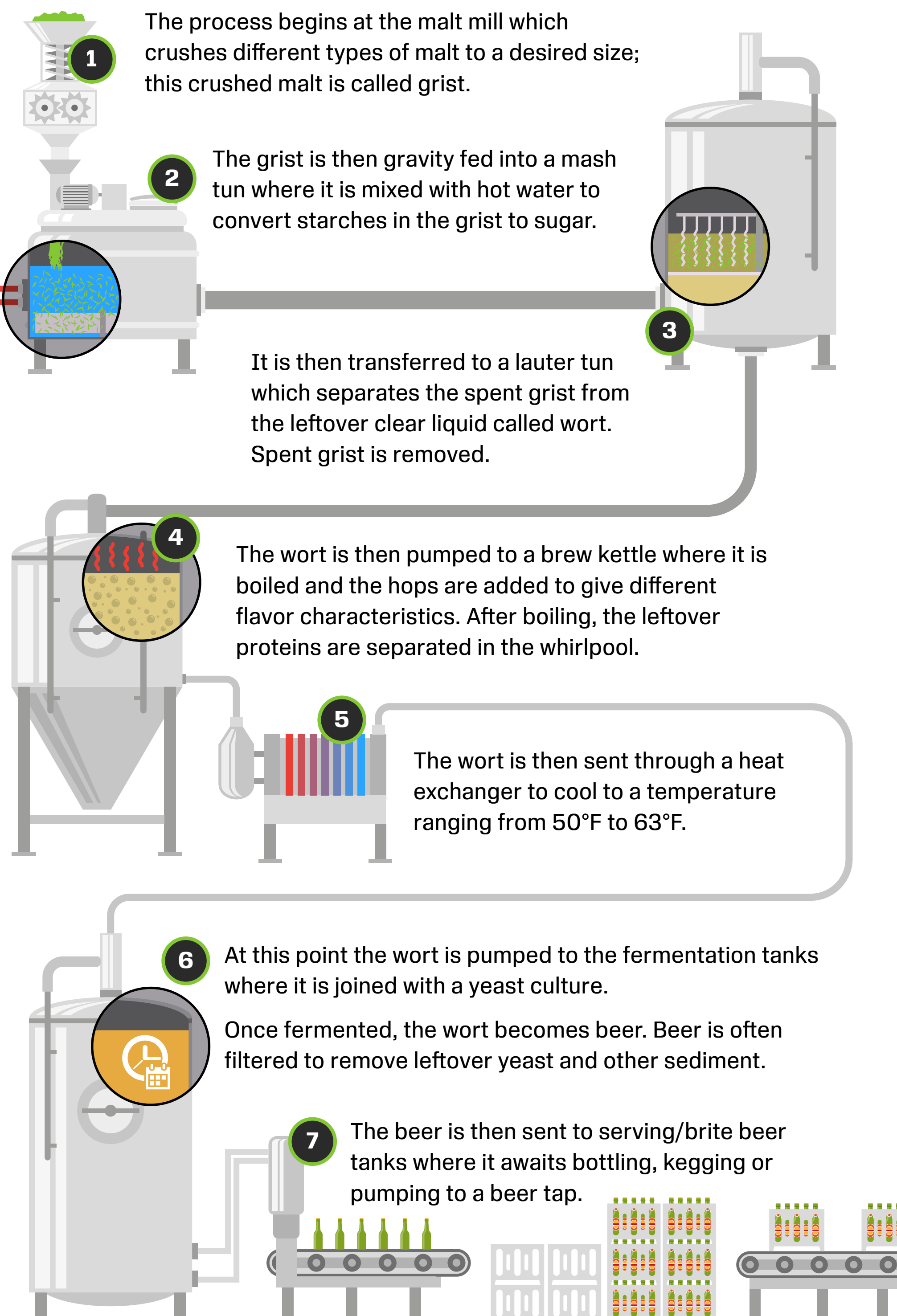
## Emerging Trends:



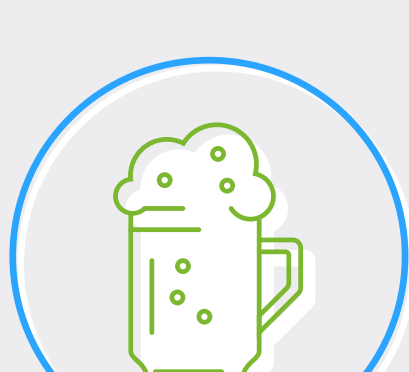
The craft beer market is projected to have a **13% annual growth** rate up to 2027.<sup>2</sup>

Machinery and equipment costs used to run a craft brewery have **decreased significantly** over the last 10 years, creating the opportunity for additional market entrants.

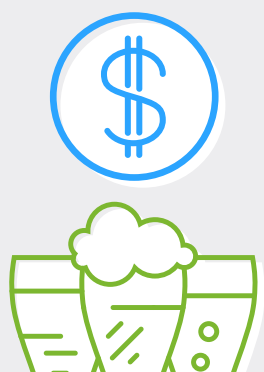
## How They Work:<sup>3</sup>



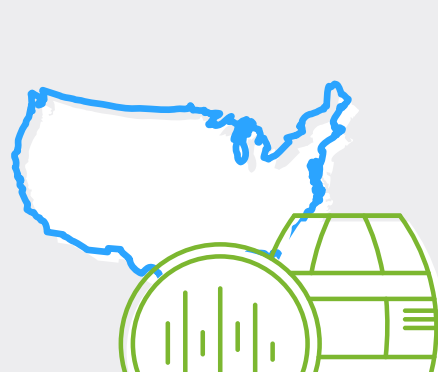
## Facts:



The number of operating U.S. craft breweries reached **9,552** in 2022.<sup>4</sup>



Craft beers account for **\$28.4 billion** in annual sales.<sup>5</sup>



In 2022, the U.S. produced **24.3 million barrels** of craft beer.<sup>6</sup>

## Preventive Maintenance:

### Suggestions for loss prevention



Develop and implement a maintenance and testing program for electrical distribution equipment and production machinery.



Develop a contingency plan for unplanned machinery and equipment downtime. Loss of utility electrical power should be a consideration.



Use a ventilation system, such as an exhaust fan to reduce corrosion to electrical components.



Perform weekly boiler blowdown, including low water cutoff valve and sight glass. Consult the boiler manufacturer for recommendations on blowdown interval frequency based on the design and steam requirements of the brewery.



Verify and record proper water and glycol mixture ratio. An improper mixture will cause the chiller to work less efficiently, use more electricity and cause the heat exchanger coils to freeze and crack.

### References

- <sup>1</sup>Thompson Island Brewing Company. "What's the Difference Between a Craft Brewery, Microbrewery, Brewpub & Gastropub?" Published April 1, 2023. Accessed February 9, 2026.
- <sup>2</sup>Mordor Intelligence. "North America Craft Beer Market - Size, Share, Analysis & Forecast (2026-2031)." Mordor Intelligence. Published 2025. Accessed February 9, 2026.
- <sup>3</sup>First We Feast. "Learn How to Brew Beer with These Fun Animated GIFs." First We Feast. Accessed February 10, 2026.
- <sup>4</sup>Brewers Association. "Brewers Association Releases Annual Craft Brewing Industry Production Report and Top 50 Producing Craft Brewing Companies for 2022." Brewers Association. Published 2023. Accessed February 9, 2026.
- <sup>5</sup>Brewers Association. "National Beer Stats." Brewers Association. Accessed February 9, 2026.
- <sup>6</sup>Statista. "Barrels of Craft Beer Produced in the United States." Statista. Published November 29, 2025. Accessed February 9, 2026.