

Technical Brief

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Domestic Slag Processing Locations

Overview

There are 120 slag processing facilities in the U.S. as of 2024, a 14% decrease from 2014. 33 US states have slag processing plants, with Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Indiana consistently presenting the highest concentration. The latest data available on exact locations and slag processing type were published in 2021. Based on the most up-to-date data (2021), EAF is the most commonly processed slag (77 out of 124 locations).

Key Takeaways

- Domestic slag processing plants have decreased by 14% over the last decade (2014-2024). However, the latest available data on the companies, locations, and types of slag processed were released by USGS in 2021.
- Ohio-Pennsylvania-Indiana represents a clear corridor where the highest number of slag processing plants are located throughout the last decade.
- Slag types processed differ based on location and facility. Further work is required to assess these implications on the supply chain.

Domestic Slag Location Trends

In the U.S., slag is processed in facilities that service active iron and steel facilities, reprocess old slag piles, or import foreign slag sources. Figure 1 summarizes key information on the numbers of facilities, companies, and states involved in slag processing.

Category	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
No. of companies	25	25	29	25	25	28	28	28	25	25	25
No. of processing plants	140	140	135	175	140	129	129	124	123	123	120
No. of US States	32	32	31	30	30	33	33	33	33	33	33

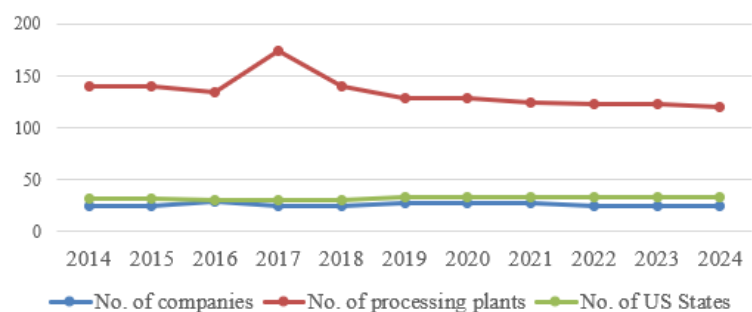


Figure 1. Summary of domestic slag locations (2014-2024)

USDOT Steel Slag Initiative

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Domestic Slag Processing Locations

August 2026



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- The number of companies operating slag plants has remained steady (25) over the last 10 years, with a slight increase to 28 occurring between 2019 and 2021.
- The number of processing plants has seen more significant variability. Overall, it has decreased 14% from 2014 to 2024. However, a large increase was observed in 2017.
- The number of US states where processing plants are located has also remained largely steady, varying from 30-33.
- While slag processing plants decreased by 20 locations over the last 10 years, the states covered increased by 1.

Slag Processing Plants Locations

The latest publicly available data on the locations of domestic slag processing facilities are from 2021 (USGS). Figure 2 presents their geographic distribution with different colors representing the type of slag processed at each facility. The blue dots capturing steel slag processing plants represent the majority of facilities in the U.S.

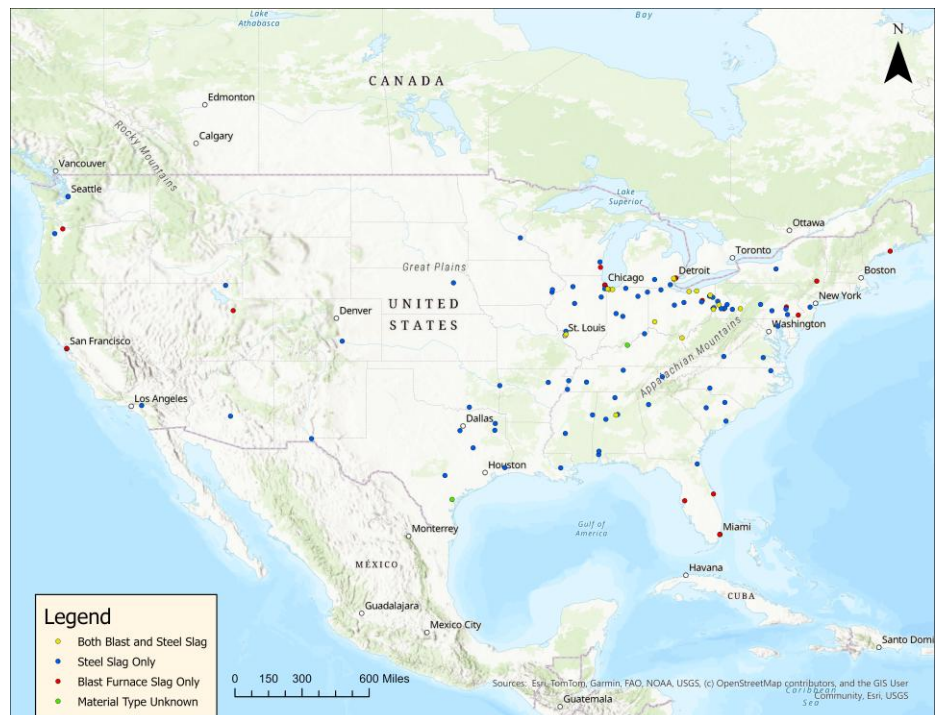


Figure 2. U.S. domestic slag processing plants as of 2021. Source: USGS

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Table 1. States with largest number of slag processing facilities in 2014 compared with 2021

State	Count (2014)	State	Count (2021)
PA	19	OH	16
OH	16	PA	13
IN	13	IN	12
IL	8	IL	10
AL	8	TX	8
TX	7	MI	6

- More than 50% of all facilities (65 out of 124 total locations) are concentrated in 6 states in 2014 and 2021.
- Five states remain in the top six across both timeframes (PA, OH, IN, IL, and TX). In 2021 the 6th state making up the majority was MI which replaced AL which was in the top 6 in 2014.
- The three states with the largest number of slag facilities in 2014 and 2021 (Ohio, Pennsylvania, Indiana) present a clear corridor that aligns with historical steel production hubs and existing infrastructure demand by transportation owners.
- Each slag processing plant processes different materials based on their slag source. EAF steel slag is the most commonly processed slag type (77 out of 124 locations), consistent with the domestic slag industry largely transitioning away from BFS.
- Most of the BFS processing facilities (16 out of 20) import BFS for processing and sale rather than sourcing it domestically [2021 data].
- Only 13% of the facilities process more than 1 type of slag, with just 3 facilities processing the maximum of 3 different types [2021 data].

Table 2. Domestic processing plant count per slag type [2021 data]

Blast furnace slag			Steel furnace slag		
AC	GBFS	PEL	BOF	OHF	EAF
20	20	1	19	3	77

Blast furnace slag type abbreviations: AC = air-cooled; GBFS = ground and unground granulated blast furnace slag; PEL = pelletized.

Steel furnace slag types: BOF = basic oxygen furnace; OHF = open hearth furnace; EAF = electric arc furnace.

This brief summarizes findings on domestic slag processing locations as part of the Industry Assessment for USDOT-SLAG, “Research Initiative on the Use of Steel Slag in Concrete and Cement” under cooperative agreement 693JK42550005. Information supporting these findings can be found at: <https://cait.rutgers.edu/usdotsteelslag/>. Inquiries about this work can be sent to: usdotsteelslaginitiative@rutgers.edu