

High traffic recovery at start of year followed by stagnation of growth in May and June

Geneva, 27 July 2023 – Skyguide, Switzerland's air navigation service provider, managed and monitored 556 839 flights under instrument flight rules (IFR) in the first half of 2023. This represents a year-on-year increase of 6.7%, and a decline of 11.8% with respect to the first half of 2019. Air traffic in the airspace above Switzerland and in the delegated areas managed by Skyguide recovered at a high rate the first two months of the year, with steady growth also in March and April, and then stagnation in May and June, reaching 90.5% of 2019 traffic levels (month-on-month) by the end of the first semester. 98.2% of all flights handled by Skyguide were punctual, which is 1 point above the punctuality of the first half of 2019. The stagnation in growth these past two months can be attributed partly to the severe weather affecting all of Europe, as well as the ATC strikes in France since 19th of January, which have greatly impacted the traffic in Geneva ACC.

Throughout the first 6 months, when comparing to the 2019 traffic levels, the gap slowly closed, from -15.2% in January to -11.8% in April, stabilizing at -9.5% in May and June.

First half-year flight movements by market segment (Skyguide charging zone)

	2023 vs 2022	2023 vs 2019
All-cargo flights	-11.8%	+25.3%
Business aviation	-11.6%	+9.8%
Charter flights	-13.1%	-8.3%
Mainline airlines	+3.9%	-13.0%
Regional airlines	+21.4%	-12.0%
Low-cost carriers	+10.8%	-30.4%

All-cargo and Business Aviation growth is gradually stalling, though the overall levels in 2023 remain higher than those of 2019.

In the first half of 2023, the number of overflights handled grew by 3.1% compared to the same period of the previous year, which is a decrease of 12.9% compared to the number of overflights of the first half of 2019. The number of take-offs and landings throughout Switzerland also increased (+12.8% vs 2022, and -10% vs 2019).

Zürich Airport recorded a 22% increase in movements (-13.6% vs 2019) and Geneva Airport an 8.9% increase (-9.7% vs 2019). The traffic handled at Switzerland's regional airports showed a decrease of -9.4% vs 2022 and -7.1% vs 2019.

Skyguide's area control centres in Geneva and Dübendorf registered an increase in aircraft movements of 0.7% and 5.1% respectively (-17.2% and -12.2% vs 2019). The busiest day for Skyguide in the first half of 2023 was Friday 16th of June, when 4'154 flights were handled.

Movements in the first half of 2023 by area control centre and airport:

	January-June 2022	January-June 2022	Change
Area control centres			
Geneva	288'453	286'440	+0.7%
Zurich	360'108	342'609	+5.1%
IFR arrivals/departures			
Bern	5'014	5'229	- 4.1%
Buochs	1'216	1'143	+ 6.4%
Donaueschingen	873	940	- 7.2%
Friedrichshafen	5'053	5'090	- 0.7%
Geneva	82'654	75'891	+ 8.9%
Grenchen	1'517	2'088	- 27.3%
Les Eplatures	721	969	- 25.6%
Lugano	3'004	2'985	+ 0.6%
Sion	4'224	5'123	- 17.5%
St. Gallen Altenrhein	4'511	4'764	- 5.3%
Zurich	114'473	93'852	+ 22.0%

	January-June 2023	January-June 2019	Change
Area control centres			
Geneva	288'453	348'545	- 17.2%
Zurich	360'108	410'033	- 12.2%
IFR arrivals/departures			
Bern	5'014	5'200	- 3.6%
Buochs	1'216	1'252	- 2.9%
Donaueschingen	873	798	+ 9.4%
Friedrichshafen	5'053	7'409	- 31.8%
Geneva	82'654	91'567	- 9.7%
Grenchen	1'517	2'065	- 26.5%
Les Eplatures	721	964	- 25.2%
Lugano	3'004	3'781	- 20.6%
Sion	4'224	3'637	+ 16.1%
St. Gallen Altenrhein	4'511	4'856	- 7.1%
Zurich	114'473	132'550	- 13.6%

Higher punctuality than before the Corona crisis

98.2% of all flights in the first half of the year were handled by air traffic control without delay.

Punctuality was 1% lower before the Corona crisis.

skyguide media release

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