skyguide factsheet

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# Swiss air traffic grows slightly in the first half of 2025

**Since the beginning of the year, Skyguide has safely guided more than 868,000 flights. Swiss air traffic is thus returning to pre-pandemic levels. Investments in technology and adjusted personnel planning ensure high reliability during the summer season.**

**Traffic development in the first eight months**
By the end of the summer holidays, Skyguide had monitored and guided 868,029 flights under instrument flight rules (IFR) over Switzerland and in the airspaces delegated to it. Over the first eight and a half months, this represents an increase of 0.1 per cent compared to the previous year and 0.7 per cent compared to before the pandemic.

From January to March, traffic increased by an average of 3 per cent. In spring, growth slowed (+0.5 per cent in April, -0.1 per cent in May) before picking up again slightly in June (+1.7 per cent) and July (+0.8 per cent). At the end of August, traffic volume was at 100.1 per cent of pre-crisis levels.

The busiest day for Swiss air traffic control so far this year was Friday, 11 July, with 4,611 IFR (instrument flight rules) flights.

Overall, the growth rate is weaker than expected. This is partly due to the 39 percent increase in overflight charges. As a result, some of the traffic has shifted to Belgium, Croatia, Slovenia and Austria.

**Stable and reliable in the summer season**
Air traffic stabilised at a high level in the summer months of July and August 2025. The volume was in line with the previous year and 3.6 per cent higher than in the summer of 2019.

Zurich Airport recorded a 4 per cent increase this summer compared to 2024 and exceeded 2019 by 1 per cent. Meanwhile, traffic at Geneva Airport remained almost stable, down 0.9 per cent on 2024 and 1.3 per cent on 2019.

Skyguide's investments in system stability were particularly noticeable during the summer holidays. However, the adjusted personnel planning during these busy months also paid off. Swiss air traffic control achieved a high level of punctuality during this summer season, handling 95.6 per cent of flights without delay. This exceeded the above-average European figures for 2024 (94.7 per cent) and 2019 (93.9 per cent).

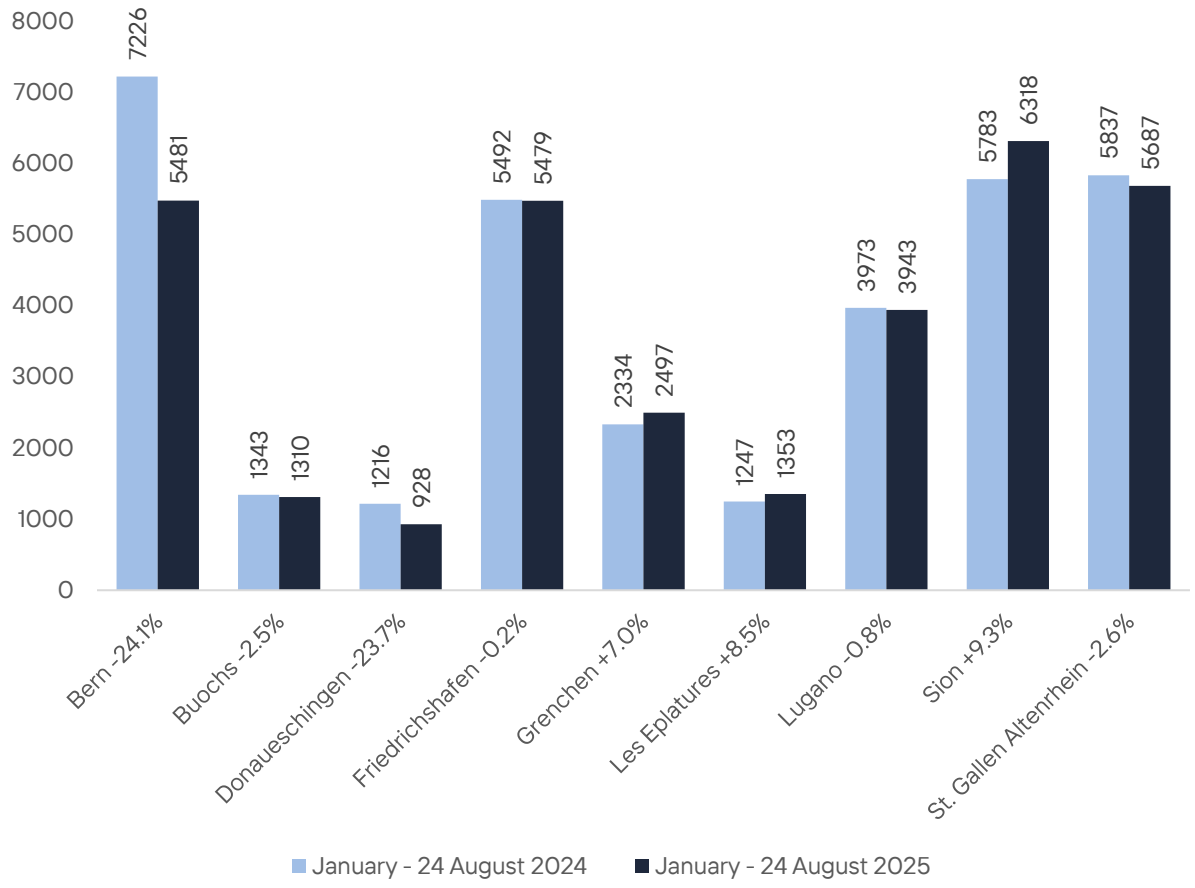
In the summer of 2025, the weather was the main cause of delays in air traffic. It was responsible for around 62 per cent of all cases. In addition, staff shortages in air traffic control and capacity bottlenecks on runways each accounted for around 15 per cent of delays.

**Development at airports, in overflights and in control centres**
The number of overflights in the airspace controlled by Skyguide increased by 0.6 per cent compared to the same period last year (+3.5 per cent vs. 2019). The number of take-offs and landings in Switzerland also increased slightly compared to 2024 (+1 per cent). However, compared to 2019, there was a decline of 3.6 per cent. Broken down by airport, the statistics are as follows:

- **Zürich Airport:** +3.4 per cent compared to the same period last year; -2.5 per cent compared to 2019.
- **Geneva Airport:** -1.4 per cent compared to the same period last year; -4.9 per cent compared to 2019.
- **Regional Aerodromes:** -4.2 per cent compared to the same period last year; -5.6 per cent compared to 2019.

The control centres in Geneva and Dübendorf recorded different developments: traffic in the airspace controlled from Geneva increased by 1.5 per cent (-1.5 per cent vs. 2019). Meanwhile, traffic at the Dübendorf district control centre declined by 2 per cent (-1.4 per cent vs. 2019).

| | Jan - 24 Aug 2025 | Jan – 24 Aug 2024 | Change |
|---|---|---|---|
| **Area control centres** | | | |
| Geneva | 466'110 | 459'111 | +1.5% |
| Zurich | 550'819 | 562'263 | -2.0% |
| | | | |
| **IFR arrivals/departures** | | | |
| Geneva | 112'821 | 114'398 | -1.4% |
| Zurich | 172'237 | 166'560 | +3.4% |



**A look at the various market segments**
(These figures refer to traffic from January to July 2025.)

- **Regional Airlines**: With 5.6 percent, they recorded the strongest year-on-year growth but are still well below the 2019 figure (-20.6 percent). Reasons for this include higher ticket prices and increased competition from public transport services.
- **Cargo:** Driven by e-commerce, particularly from Southeast Asia, this sector recorded a 20 percent increase compared to 2019. The increase compared to the previous year is 1.8 percent. Cargo flights account for around 2 percent of total traffic.
- **Low-Cost-Carrier:** They are recording growth of 1.3 per cent compared to 2024. The number of flight movements is 4.6 per cent above the 2019 level, making them significant growth drivers.
- **Business Aviation:** Compared to 2024, the number of movements remains virtually unchanged (+0.1 percent). Compared to before the pandemic, it is up +10.9 percent.
- **Airlines:** They are recording a slight increase of 0.7 per cent compared to 2024. Compared to before the pandemic, the number of flight movements is slightly down (0.7 per cent).