

## **Skyguide reports stronger than expected traffic growth in first six months.**

**Geneva, 19 July 2017.** Skyguide, Switzerland's air navigation service provider (ANSP), managed and monitored 590,091 civil instrument flight rules (IFR) flights in the first six months of 2017, a 3.2% increase on the same period last year. The rise in traffic was however accompanied by a new increase of 21.7% of the delay per flight with respect to the record first half of the previous year, affecting 3.5% of flights.

### **More flights handled**

The monthly air traffic volumes handled by skyguide consistently increased in the first half of 2017. The biggest increase was recorded in April, with 5.2%. At the same time, the growth recorded in skyguide's first-half air traffic volumes was still below the European average of 4.2% – a figure strongly influenced by the increase in flights added to the network by the UK, Spain and Germany.

As Eurocontrol's STATFOR-sourced statistics confirm, 2017 first-half traffic volume trends also showed strong variations among the traffic categories. However, all market segments are in growth, and charter traffic has recovered, thanks namely to the lifting of the ban on charter flights between the Russian Federation and Turkey, in August 2016.

### **First-half air traffic volume trends by category (Europe)**

Traditional airlines	+ 2.5%
Low-cost carriers	+ 7.7%
Charter flights	+ 2.8%
Cargo flights	+ 7.1%
Business aviation	+ 6.2%

### **IFR flights<sup>1</sup> handled by skyguide in the first half of 2017**

	January-June 2017	January-June 2016	Change
Total IFR flights	590,091	573,478	+ 2.9%
of which en-route traffic	348,438	335,120	+ 4.0%

The first-half growth in en-route traffic volumes handled – 4% – is more than double of that of January-June 2016. The number of controlled movements (takeoffs and landings) throughout Switzerland has also increased clearly (2.9%). Both Zurich and Geneva airports reported slight rises in their IFR movement volumes, of 1.3% and 1.2% respectively. The traffic handled at Switzerland's regional airports saw well-above-average first-half growth (+5.8%).

---

<sup>1</sup> IFR or "instrument flight rules" flights are performed in controlled airspace and require air traffic management services to ensure their safe and efficient operation.

**Area control centres report positive volume trends**

Skyguide's Geneva and Dübendorf area control centres or ACCs both saw higher than expected increases in traffic, with 5.4% for ACC Geneva and 3.5% for the Zurich (Dübendorf) ACC.

**Daily peak of 4,222 flights on 30 June**

Skyguide's busiest day to date in the first half of 2017 was Friday 30 June, when a total of 4,222 flights were handled.

**2017 first-half movement volumes by area control centre and airport:**

	January-June 2017	January-June 2016	Change
<b>Area control centres</b>			
Geneva	333'405	316'424	+5.4%
Zurich	380'070	367'342	+3.5%
<b>IFR arrivals/departures</b>			
Bern	7,822	8'787	- 11.0%
Buochs	1'158	1'175	- 1.4%
Donaueschingen	804	652	+ 23.3%
Friedrichshafen	7'741	7'806	- 0.8%
Geneva	93'860	92'775	+ 1.2%
Grenchen	2'367	2'537	- 6.7%
Les Eplatures	954	857	+ 11.3%
Lugano	4'335	5'268	- 17.7%
Sion	3'347	3'132	+ 6.9%
St. Gallen Altenrhein	5'117	4'795	+ 6.7%
Zurich	128'035	126'390	+ 1.3%

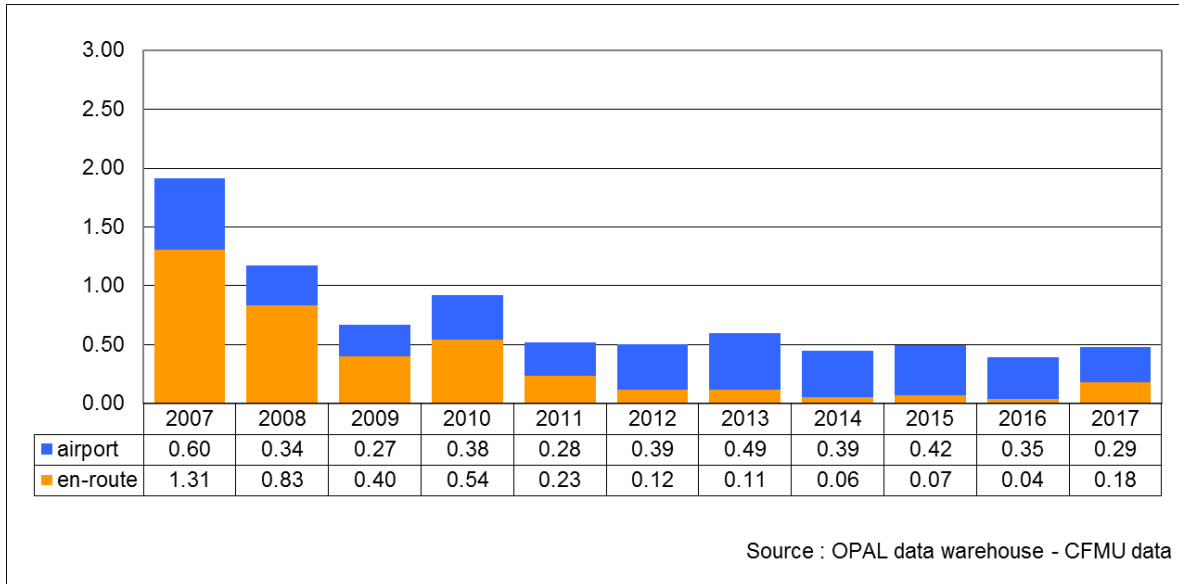
**Higher traffic volumes and high punctuality**

Despite the higher traffic volumes, skyguide maintained an excellent operating performance in the 2017 first-half period. 96.5% of all flights were handled with zero delay.

Most capacity-related air traffic control delays are incurred during peak operating periods. En-route delays during the first six months of 2017 increased by 0.18 minutes per flight compared to the same period in 2016 (0.04 minutes per flight) putting skyguide at the limit of the European performance target for 2017. A quarter of this delay is attributable to weather, and another quarter to safety related capacity reductions due to technical interruptions (radar system). The remaining half of the delay is due to traffic loads which were much higher than the forecast traffic, as well as to high traffic volatility over the lower/upper areas and periods of the day, resulting in delays due to lack of capacity on the one hand, and insufficient staff planned on the other. Furthermore, this increase in traffic is extremely volatile; it was observed during certain time periods, over certain days or certain weeks, in certain areas (lower/upper Geneva/Zurich ACC), without any clear pattern or recurrence.

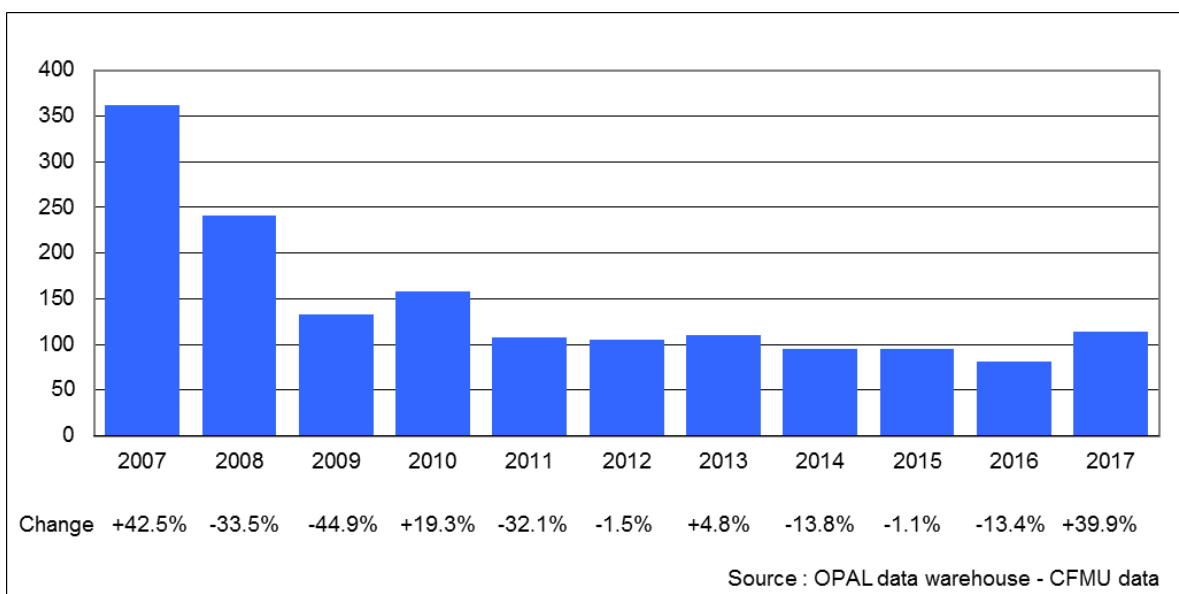
It should also be underlined that during the months of April and May, a 10% capacity decrease was applied on both ACCs, due to technical problems, a decrease which was prolonged in Zurich ACC until the start of June.

**Average airport and en-route delays per flight (in minutes), January to June**



Skyguide saw a high increase in its average en-route delays but a decrease in its average airport delays per flight in the 2017s first-half period.

**Average skyguide delayed flights per day, January to June**



The average number of delayed flights per day for the 2017 first-half period amounted to 114, a substantial deterioration on the 82 of last year.

## Highly complex airspace

As statistics maintained by Eurocontrol show, skyguide manages the most complex airspace in Europe. This poses sizeable challenges for the company's operations and personnel, in terms of both the sheer volumes of flights handled and the structure of the air traffic flows.

skyguide  
swiss air navigation services ltd  
media relations  
CH-1215 Geneva 15

Contact:

phone: +41 22 417 4008  
email: [presse@skyguide.ch](mailto:presse@skyguide.ch)  
internet: [www.skyguide.ch](http://www.skyguide.ch)

---

Skyguide provides air navigation services for Switzerland and certain adjacent parts of neighbouring countries. With its 1,500 employees at 14 locations in Switzerland, the company guides some 1.2 million civil and military flights a year safely and efficiently through Europe's busiest airspace. Skyguide is well integrated into the international air navigation services community and, with its innovative and customer-minded solutions, helps enhance Switzerland's appeal as a place to live, work and do business. The company is majority-owned by the Swiss Confederation, and is headquartered in Geneva.

---