

## Historic slump in traffic due to the global corona crisis

**Geneva, 30 July 2020:** Skyguide, Switzerland's air navigation service provider, managed and monitored 270 610 flights under instrument flight rules (IFR) in the first half of 2020. This represents a year-on-year decline of 57.1%, most of which occurred in March, April and May. Air traffic in the airspace above Switzerland and in the delegated areas managed by skyguide came to a virtual standstill at times after the coronavirus crisis that reached Europe in March 2020 severely restricted air traffic. 98.3% of all flights handled by skyguide were punctual. Skyguide also achieved this high level of punctuality in the period before Corona. The pandemic had no impact on the Swiss Air Force's training flights and mission nor skyguide's military air navigation services.

In January and February, the number of flights handled by skyguide increased by some 1 to 2% on the previous month, before collapsing from mid-March onwards with a 47.2% decline in traffic. The decline reached -93% in April and -91% in May, followed by a slight improvement in June (-83.6%) following the lifting of some local travel restrictions and closures.

### First half-year aircraft movements by market segment (in airspace managed by skyguide)

Cargo flights	- 2.2%
Business flights	- 37.8%
Charter flights	- 39.2%
Traditional airlines	- 59.8%
Low-cost airlines	- 67.3%

In the first half of 2020, the number of scheduled flights handled fell by 60.3% compared to the same period of the previous year. The number of controlled movements (take-offs and landings) throughout Switzerland also fell (-52.3%).

Zürich Airport recorded a 56.6% drop in IFR movements and Geneva Airport a 50.9% decline. The traffic handled at Switzerland's regional airports showed a smaller decline (-32.4%) due to the fact that a large part of the traffic at these airports was unscheduled.

Skyguide's area control centres in Geneva and Dübendorf registered a decline in aircraft movements of 57.3% and 56.9% respectively.

The busiest day for skyguide in the first half of 2020 was Friday 21 February, when 3 394 flights were handled.

**Movements in the first half of 2020 by area control centre and airport:**

	January-June 2020	January-June 2019	Change
<b>Area control centres</b>			
Geneva	148'810	348'545	-57.3%
Zurich	176'848	410'033	-56.9%
<b>IFR arrivals/departures</b>			
Bern	4,087	5,200	- 21.4%
Buochs	612	1'252	- 51.1%
Donaueschingen	562	798	- 29.6%
Friedrichshafen	3'369	7'409	- 54.5%
Geneva	44'995	91'567	- 50.9%
Grenchen	1'580	2'065	- 23.5%
Les Eplatures	979	964	+ 1.6%
Lugano	1'860	3'781	- 50.8%
Sion	2'762	3'637	- 24.1%
St. Gallen Altenrhein	2'827	4'856	- 41.8%
Zurich	57'506	132'550	- 56.6%

**High punctuality even in the first months before the Corona crisis**

The high punctuality of air traffic control in January and February as well as the lack of delays in the following months due to the slump in traffic led to 98.3% of all flights being handled without delay.

**Swiss Air Force flights continued unchanged during Corona crisis**

The pandemic had no impact on Swiss Air Force flights or skyguide's military air navigation services. The Air Force conducted regular training flights and operations during the Corona crisis.

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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 1.3 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.

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