

Skyguide achieves high first-half punctuality and productivity with lower traffic volumes

Geneva, 13 July 2012. Skyguide handled a total of 574,481 civil air traffic movements in the first six months of 2012, a 2.1% decline on the comparable volume for the same period last year. The actions taken by Switzerland's air navigation service provider (ANSP) to increase its airspace capacity continue to yield results on punctuality: some 96.7% of all the flights handled were managed without delays. Eurocontrol also gives skyguide a top ranking among Europe's ANSPs in productivity terms.

Fewer flights handled

The difficult global economic situation has been depressing air traffic levels since the end of 2011. The statistics maintained by Eurocontrol show volume declines in all market segments in Europe for the first half of 2012:

Cargo traffic: down 3.7%
Business aviation: down 3.5%
Scheduled airline traffic: down 2.9%
Low-cost carrier traffic: down 1.2%.

While some of Switzerland's airports report increases in passenger numbers for the period, traffic volumes have declined for Europe as a whole.

IFR flights¹ handled by skyguide in the first half of 2012:

	January-June 2012	January-June 2011	Change
Total IFR flights	574,481	587,037	- 2.1%
of which en-route traffic	332,420	346,192	- 4.0%

The volume of en-route traffic handled by skyguide for the first half of 2012 was a 4.0% decline on the same period last year. The total number of landings and departures handled at Switzerland's airports did show slight 0.5% growth. Geneva Airport posted an increase here of 2.0%, while Zurich saw its flight volumes fall by 2.0%.

Area control centres report volume declines

The numbers of flight movements that an ANSP's control centres are required to handle are a key indicator of the workloads involved. Of significance here is the decline in traffic volumes seen for skyguide's Geneva and Zurich area control centres.

Daily peak of 3,980 movements on 15 June

Skyguide's busiest day to date in 2012 was Friday 15 June, when 3,980 flights were handled. This peak volume is slightly lower than the busiest day in the first half of 2011, with its 3,993 flights.

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

2012 first-half movement volumes by control centre:

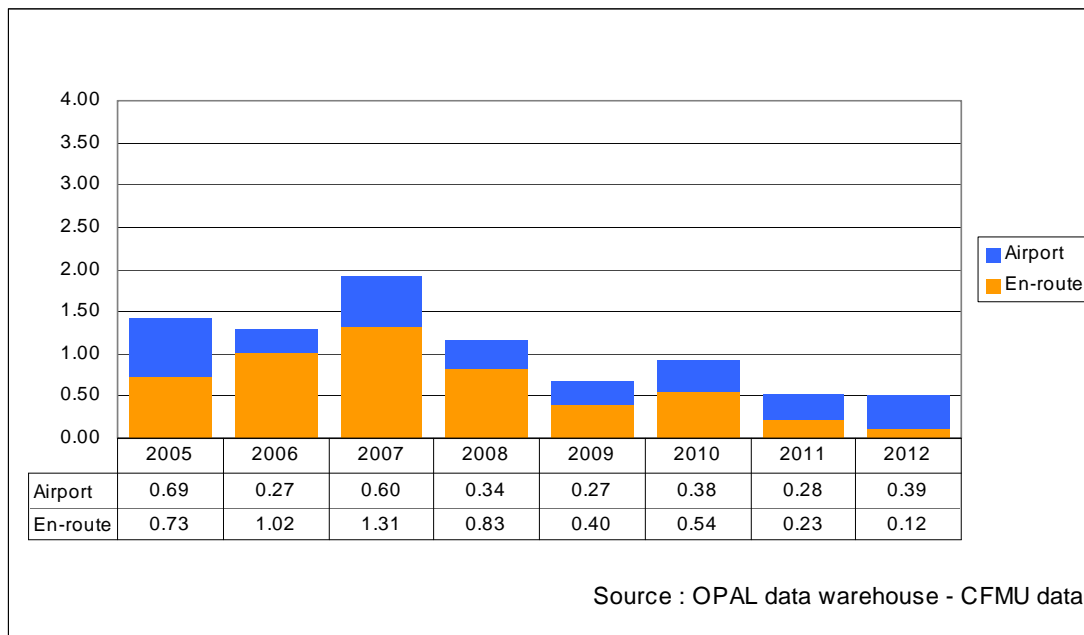
	January-June 2012	January-June 2011	Change 11-12
Area control centres			
Geneva	316,244	325,134	- 2.7%
Zurich	373,364	381,469	- 2.1%
IFR landings/departures			
Bern	10,334	8,083	+ 27.8%
Donaueschingen	850	852	- 0.2%
Friedrichshafen	8,487	9,527	- 10.9%
Geneva	92,256	90,412	+ 2.0%
Grenchen	2,735	2,721	+ 0.5%
Les Eplatures	959	796	+ 20.5%
Lugano	5,157	5,372	- 4.0%
Sion	3,004	2,944	+ 2.0%
St. Gallen Altenrhein	5,787	5,688	+ 1.7%
Zurich	129,067	131,646	- 2.0%

Another top punctuality performance and fewer delayed flights

As in the previous year, skyguide handled 96.7% of its flights without any delay at all – another outstanding operational performance.

Skyguide continues to work to increase its available airspace capacity; and this further top punctuality performance is primarily attributable to the recent restructurings of the upper airspace areas above Western and Eastern Switzerland.

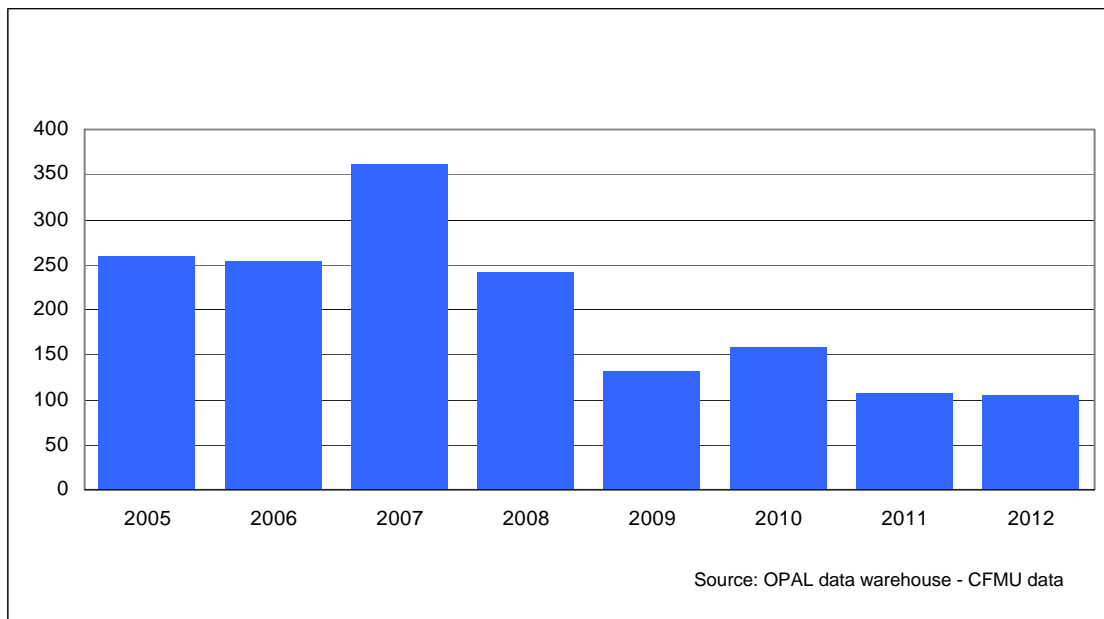
**Average delay per flight – airport / en-route
 January-June 2012 (in minutes)**



En-route delays for the first half of 2012 were 50.3% below their prior-year equivalent. Airport delays increased by 31.7% over the same period.

- The average airport delay attributable to air traffic flow management per flight amounted to 0.39 minutes (= 23.4 seconds).
- The average en-route delay attributable to air traffic flow management per flight amounted to 0.13 minutes (= 7.8 seconds).

Average skyguide delayed flights per day for the January-to-June period 2012



Change - 1.2% - 2.7% + 42.5% - 33.5% - 44.9% - 19.3% - 32.1% - 1.5%

The average number of delayed flights per day for the period was down by 1.5% while traffic volumes were similar to those of last year.

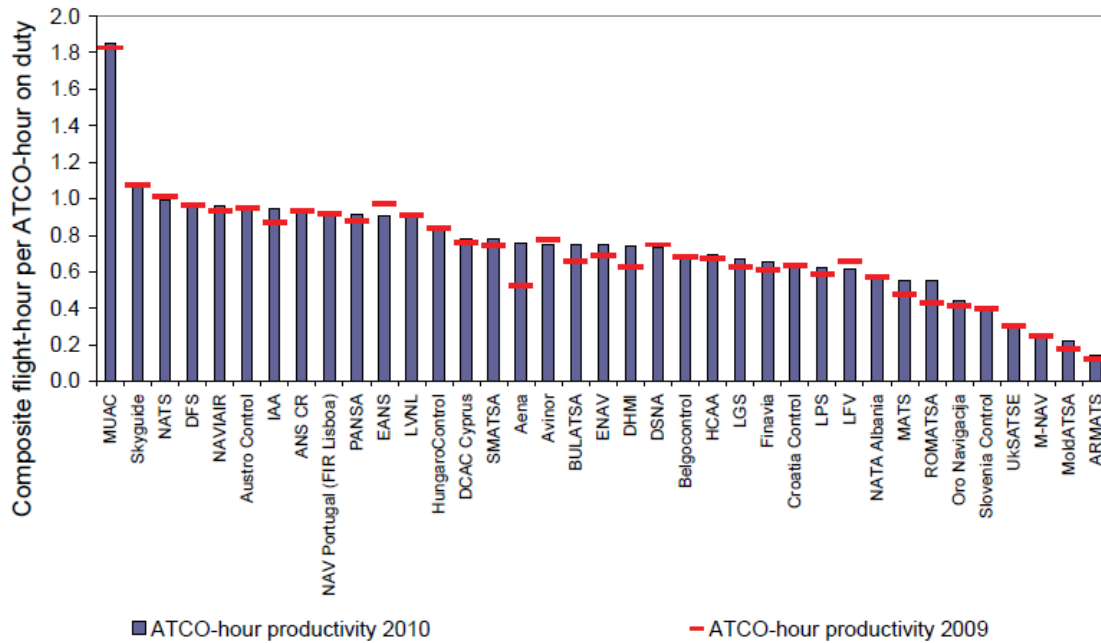
Highly complex airspace

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

Europe's second-highest productivity

In productivity terms, too, skyguide can report a top-quality performance. The 2011 Eurocontrol Performance Review Report puts Switzerland's ANSP second in Europe in controller productivity terms. Skyguide is only surpassed here by the Maastricht Upper Area Control Centre (MUAC), which only handles en-route traffic.

The Eurocontrol 2011 [Performance Review Report](#)



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Skyguide is responsible for providing air navigation services in Switzerland and in certain parts of neighbouring countries. With its 1,400 employees active at 14 locations in Switzerland, skyguide safely and efficiently guides some 3,270 flights civil and military aircraft a day – or 1.2 million a year – through the busiest and most complex airspace in Europe. Skyguide stands for continuous improvement, focussed innovation and creative cooperation. Together with its partner organisations in Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands, the company forms the FABEC alliance in charge of managing Central Europe's airspace. Skyguide is a non-profit limited company which has its head office in Geneva. The majority of its shares are held by the Swiss Confederation.
