

## **Skyguide achieves high first-half punctuality and productivity with weak traffic volumes**

**Geneva, 8 July 2013.** Skyguide handled a total of 552,988 civil air traffic flights in the first six months of 2013, a 3.7% decline on the comparable volume for the same period last year. The weak traffic volumes and the actions taken by Switzerland's air navigation service provider (ANSP) to increase its airspace capacity continue to yield results on punctuality: some 96.4% 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 (except for charter flights) for the first half of 2013:

Cargo traffic: down 3.8%  
Business aviation: down 2.6%  
Charter flights: up 1.3%  
Scheduled airline traffic: down 2.7%  
Low-cost carrier traffic: down 0.4%.

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

### **IFR flights<sup>1</sup> handled by skyguide in the first half of 2013:**

	January-June 2013	January-June 2012	Change
Total IFR flights	552,988	574,485	- 3.7%
of which en-route traffic	317,154	332,424	- 4.6%

The volume of en-route traffic handled by skyguide for the first half of 2013 was a 4.6% decline on the same period last year. The total number of landings and departures handled at Switzerland's airports declined by 2.6%. Geneva Airport posted a decrease of 1.6%, while Zurich saw its flight volumes fall by 3.0%.

### **Area control centres report volume declines**

The numbers of flight movements that an ANSP's control centre is 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 3,900 flights on 28 June 2013**

Skyguide's busiest day to date in 2013 was Friday 28 June, when 3,900 flights were handled. This peak volume is 2.0% lower than the busiest day in the first half of 2012, with its 3,980 flights.

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<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.

**2013 first-half movement volumes by control centre:**

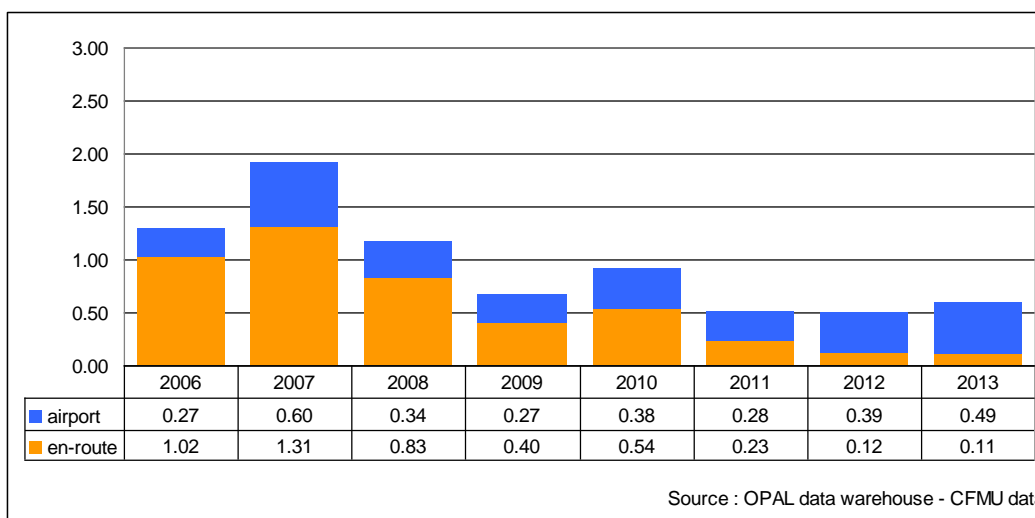
	January-June 2013	January-June 2012	Change 12-13
<b>Area control centres</b>			
Geneva	304,082	315,929	- 3.7%
Zurich	357,911	375,012	- 4.6%
<b>IFR landings/departures</b>			
Bern	10,136	10,334	- 1.9%
Donaueschingen	750	850	- 11.8%
Friedrichshafen	8,224	8,486	- 3.1%
Geneva	90,806	92,256	- 1.6%
Grenchen	2,808	2,735	+ 2.7%
Les Eplatures	892	959	- 7.0%
Lugano	4,609	5,157	- 10.6%
Sion	2,751	3,004	- 8.4%
St. Gallen Altenrhein	5,070	5,788	- 12.4%
Zurich	125,209	129,067	- 3.0%

**Less traffic – top punctuality performance**

As in the previous year, skyguide showed an excellent operational performance with 96.4% of its flights without any delay at all – slightly less than the outstanding 2012 performance (96.7%).

Capacity-based air traffic delays usually occur during peak hours. Although the traffic volumes declined during the first-half 2013, capacity demand during peak hours was continuously high. This explains en-route delays in the airspace controlled by skyguide. Nevertheless, skyguide's punctuality still clearly exceeds the European targets set for 2014.

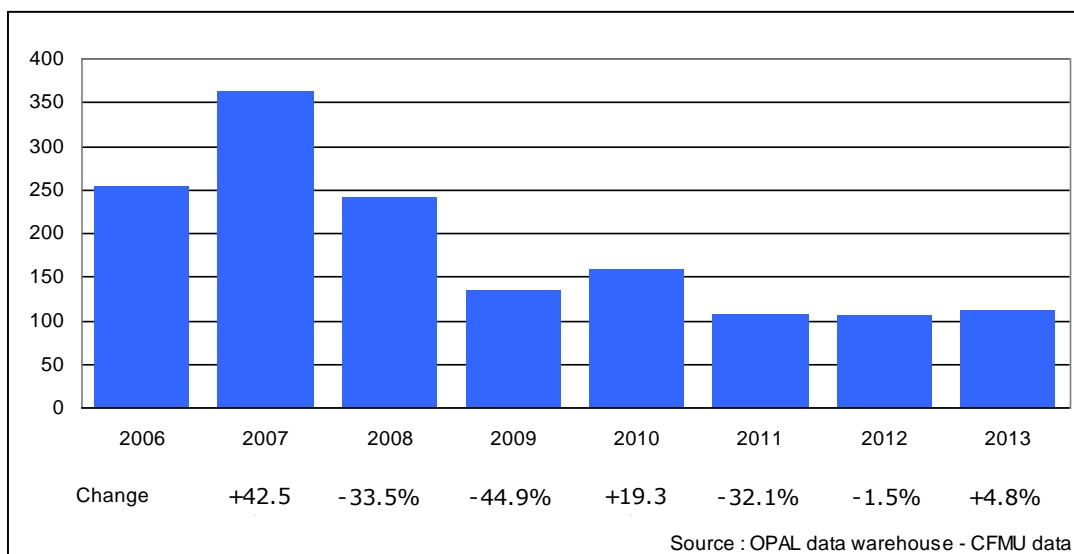
**Average delay per flight – airport / en-route  
 January-June 2013 (in minutes)**



En-route delays for the first half of 2013 were 1.6% below their prior-year equivalent. Airport delays increased by 25.5% over the same period.

- The average airport delay attributable to air traffic flow management per flight amounted to 0.49 minutes (= 29.4 seconds).
- The average en-route delay attributable to air traffic flow management per flight amounted to 0.11 minutes (= 6.6 seconds).

#### Average skyguide delayed flights per day for the January-to-June period 2013



The average number of delayed flights per day for the period increased slightly from 106 in the first-half 2012 to 111 in 2013.

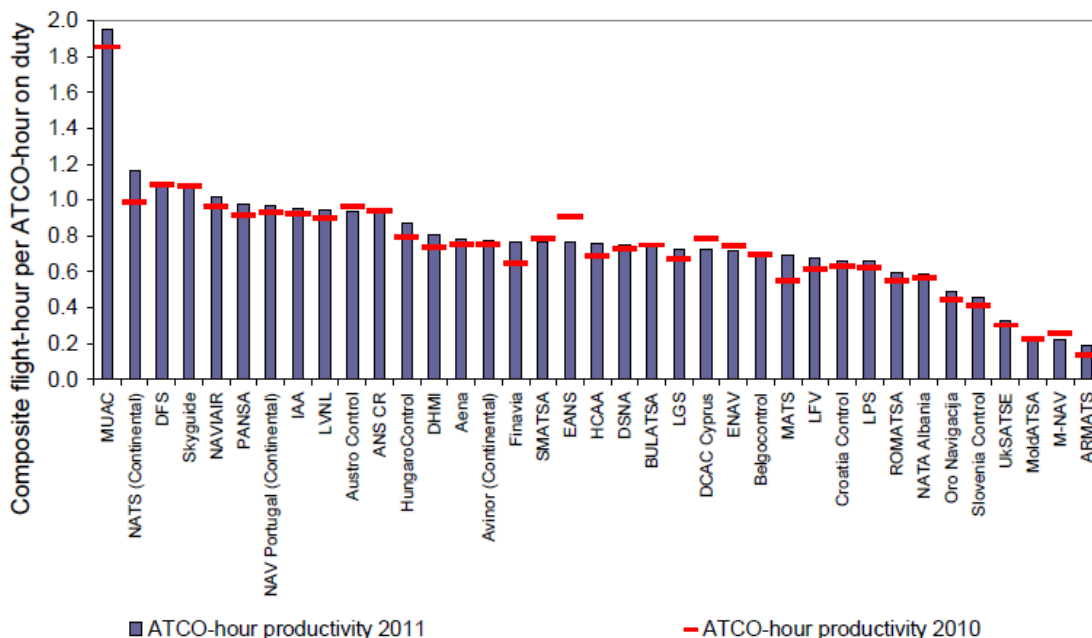
#### Highly complex airspace

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 fourth-highest productivity

In productivity terms, too, skyguide can report a top-quality performance. The 2012 Eurocontrol Performance Review Report puts Switzerland's air navigation service provider fourth in Europe in controller productivity terms. Skyguide is only surpassed here by the Maastricht Upper Area Control Centre (MUAC), NATS and DFS.

### The Eurocontrol 2012 [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 3,200 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.

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