

VALUE CREATION OF SWISS CIVIL AVIATION

Good connections contribute to Switzerland's high **attractiveness as a business** location (Federal Council 2016). This benefits international companies and organisations based in Switzerland as well as Swiss tourism. In addition, **air freight** is extremely important for the export industry: in terms of value, air transport accounts for almost half of all exports (University of St. Gallen 2020). Air transport is the only mode of transport that covers most of its infrastructure and operating costs itself (INFRAS 2015).

Source Federal Council report on CO₂-neutral flying, 2024

According to the Federal Finance Administration, transport accounted for a total of 12.7% or CHF 10.7 billion of regular **federal expenditure in 2024**.

Rail and public transport	68%
Road transport	30%
Aviation	2%

In 2023, **the Swiss hotel industry** recorded well over 40 million overnight stays (41.8 million) – an all-time high and an increase of 9.2% compared with 2022. Despite the unstable international situation and the strong Swiss franc, **foreign demand** rose by 3.7 million overnight stays (+21.8%) compared with 2022. The increase in foreign demand in 2023 was driven by **tourists from Asia**, who generated a total of 4.1 million overnight stays (+56.4%).

Source Swiss Tourism Association

In 2024, a total of 1,328,974 flights under instrument flight rules (IFR) (10.2% more than in 2023) and **479,314 IFR landings/take-offs** (4.9% more than in 2023) were recorded – figures well above the average traffic growth in Europe.

Source Skyguide

Zurich Airport generates annual added value of **7 billion Swiss francs**, which is comparable to that of a medium-sized Swiss city. The 7 billion corresponds to 4.4% of the canton of Zurich's GDP. Around **35,000 people** work in approximately 300 companies directly at the airport. The use of income generates additional value added of 8.4 billion.

Source FZAG

As a listed company, Flughafen Zürich AG has paid almost **1.5 billion Swiss francs** in taxes and dividends to the federal government, the canton, and municipalities since its privatization in 2000 – around 780 million Swiss francs to the canton of Zurich alone.

Source FZAG

FIGURES ON SWISS CIVIL AVIATION

Passengers at Swiss airports operating scheduled flights

	2022	2023	2024
Zurich	22,561,132	28,885,506	31,204,287
Geneva	14,085,280	16,482,739	17,796,333
Basel	7,050,905	8,089,637	8,914,162
St.Gallen-Altenrhein	60,237	70,822	73,060
Berne	50,174	59,566	56,745
Lugano	9,851	8,847	7,930
Total	43,817,579	53,597,117	58,052,517

Source SIAA, FOCA

Air cargo at airports operating scheduled flights

(Figures in tons, substitute transportation by truck excluded)

	2022	2023	2024
Zurich	422,153	377,998	436,032
Geneva	70,566	63,951	90,705
Basel	114,319	106,800	104,800
Total	607,038	548,749	631,537

Source SIAA

Flight movements at national and regional airports

	2022	2023	2024
Zurich	216,585	247,456	261,104
Geneva	163,168	172,841	179,106
Basel	84,136	88,323	93,932
Grenchen	58,830	54,439	56,692
Birrfeld	56,386	54,622	50,403
Berne	52,072	47,117	44,362
Sion	45,307	45,307	43,145
Lausanne	39,488	39,488	31,137
St. Gallen-Altenrhein	27,086	28,252	26,451
Lugano	19,300	18,730	20,835
Samedan	17,826	17,436	17,891
Ecuvillens	22,725	22,075	18,997
Buochs	12,033	12,914	10,674
Les Eplatures	8,971	6,027	6,701
Bressaucourt	6,252	6,092	5,803

Source FOCA

“In 2023, fuel consumption per passenger and 100 km for Swiss was 3.22 litres, and the trend is downward.”

Source Swiss

ENGLISH EDITION

FIGURES ON SWISS CIVIL AVIATION

Airports and aerodromes

	2022	2023	2024
National airports	3	3	3
Regional airports	11	11	11
Airfields	49	50	50
Heliports	24	23	23

Source FOCA

Companies

	2022	2023	2024
Scheduled airlines	5	5	5
Non-scheduled airlines	36	36	36
Maintenance companies	81	82	82
Flight training schools	136	137	136
Hang-gliding schools label FSVL	71	74	70
Hang-gliding schools	119	126	124
Manufacturers	20	20	20

Source FOCA

There are 45 helicopter operators in Switzerland, 28 of which are supervised by FOCA.

Source SHA

Aircrafts

	2022	2023	2024
Fixed-wing airplanes	1,702	1,699	1,690
Helicopters	354	365	361
Motorized fixed-wing gliders	238	241	241
Gliders	524	514	499
Hang-gliders	19,738	20,031	20,353
Drones			<80,000
Balloons	309	314	315
Airships	7	7	7

Source FOCA

AEROSUISSE, the umbrella organisation for Swiss aerospace

AEROSUISSE, founded in 1968, aims as an umbrella organisation to safeguard the interests of Swiss aerospace and to secure its livelihood. AEROSUISSE influences the framing of legal bases in the aerospace sector. Today, around 120 companies and organisations belong to AEROSUISSE. These include airlines and charter airlines, national and regional airports, aerodromes, Business Aviation, handling companies, air traffic control, maintenance companies, aircraft and components manufacturers, the Air Force, aerospace companies, flight training schools, aviation-oriented service providers, decisive Swiss aviation associations as well as other companies related to aerospace.

www.aerosuisse.ch

FIGURES ON SWISS CIVIL AVIATION

Licenses

	2022	2023	2024
Private pilot PPL(A)	4,423	4,354	4,254
Commercial pilot CPL(A)	1,076	1,039	1,127
Airline pilot ATPL(A)	2,439	2,531	2,548
Airline pilot motor ATPL(A) MP OPS only	170	172	177
Multi-crew license (MPL/A)	15	17	19
Helicopter pilot PPL(H) CPL(H)	1,070	1,068	1,062
Glider pilot	2,323	2,411	1,724
Balloon Pilot	200	199	160
Validation of foreign licenses	4	2	9
Engineer on board	2,743	2,681	2,618

Source FOCA

General facts

The operation of a **short- and medium-haul aircraft** creates 40 to 120 jobs, and a long-haul aircraft creates as many as 210 jobs.

Source Swiss

Per million passengers, 750 to 1,000 jobs are secured at a national airport.

Source SIAA

The Swiss **business aviation industry** secures around 34,000 direct and indirect jobs and generates an annual turnover of 15 billion Swiss francs. In 2024, business aviation accounted for 6% of Swiss airlines' flight movements. 130 business aircraft were still registered in the Swiss aircraft register in 2024, with a downward trend. However, 225 business aircraft registered abroad are based in Switzerland.

Source SBAA

Switzerland has concluded **bilateral air transport agreements** with over 150 countries. These agreements enable countries to open their markets to the companies concerned and remove administrative barriers.

Source FOCA

During the 2024/25 winter flight schedule period, a total of 169 different **destinations** were served from Zurich, 80 from Basel and 120 from Geneva.

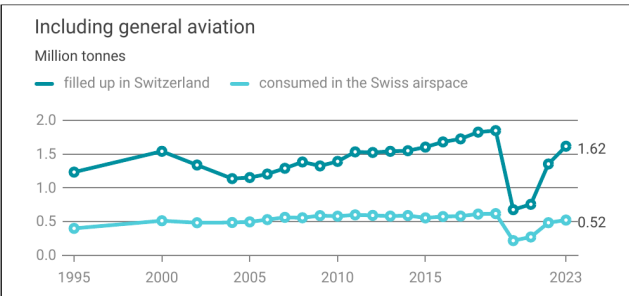
Source Travelnews

AVIATION AND CLIMATE

With the help of new technologies, air transport can prevent fossil CO₂ emissions by 2050, thereby reducing its external costs. The most important measure for achieving this is **sustainable fuels**. However, completely replacing fossil fuels will take longer than 2050. Accordingly, between 10% and a maximum of 23% of fossil CO₂ emissions cannot be reduced by then. To offset these remaining emissions, negative emission technologies will therefore be essential. With a combination of these measures, air traffic from Switzerland can achieve CO₂ neutrality by 2050.

Source Federal Council report on CO₂-neutral flying, 2024

Fuel consumption of Swiss civil aviation



Source FOCA

Switzerland was the first country in the world, alongside Sweden, to introduce **emission-based landing fees** (1997 Zurich, 1998 Geneva, 2000 Bern, 2003 Basel). In 2010, Switzerland switched to a European harmonized fee model. This model primarily considers the absolute amount of nitrogen oxide emissions.

Source FOCA

Swiss has set itself ambitious CO₂ targets. By 2030, the goal is to half **net CO₂ emissions** compared to 2019. This shall be achieved through reduction measures within the company and supplemented by investments in climate protection projects.

Source Swiss

The switch from smaller A319s to the larger **A320neo and A321neo** enables us to increase seating capacity and thus significantly reduce emissions per passenger. This will enable EasyJet to expand capacity in a fuel- and emissions-efficient manner. Compared to the A319, the NEOs offer at least 13% improvement in fuel efficiency and a 50% reduction in noise pollution.

Source EasyJet