

28 October 2011

Belgocontrol statistics: movements September 2011

Belgocontrol, the autonomous public company in charge of the safety of air navigation in the Belgian civil airspace and at the Belgian public airports, presents its results for the month of September 2011 with respect to the number of controlled movements at Brussels National Airport as well as at the regional airports and for overflights.

In September 2011 Belgocontrol managed a total of 101,970 movements, or an increase of 5.16% (5,008 movements) compared to the same month of the previous year (96,962 movements). After a very mediocre summer, the September 2011 figures link up with the growth from the beginning of this year. The overflights as well as traffic at the airports register considerable progress.

Brussels National Airport

September 2011 registered 21,414 movements, or an increase of 4.49% compared to the same month in 2010 (20,494 movements). In spite of this progression, traffic figures at Brussels National Airport struggle to rise again. After the all-time low of 2010, the result of September 2011 does not reach the September 2008 level, from before the onset of the financial crisis.

Air traffic controlled by CANAC 2

The CANAC 2 centre manages all movements in the controlled civil airspace above Belgium, from ground level to flight level 245 and above the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, between flight levels 145/165 (since 10 March 2011) and 245.

CANAC 2 controlled 51,612 movements in September 2011, representing an increase of 5.29% compared to the same month of last year (49,020). The overflights for their part are recovering faster than traffic at Brussels National Airport. The development of the regional airports, including those in the neighboring countries, lifts up the number of movements controlled by CANAC 2, for which we record similar values to those of 2008.

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The regional airports

In September 2011 the four regional airports together recorded a total of 28,944 movements. In comparison with 27,444 movements in September 2010, this results in an increase of 1,500 movements, or 5.46%. The total number of « regional » IFR flights, which was 12,364 movements in September 2010, increased with 1,236 movements, or 10% and reached 13,600 movements in September 2011.

The number of IFR flights is on the rise everywhere. Movements in Antwerp increase by 12.88%, in Liège by 26.81% and in Charleroi by 2.42%. The increase in Liège is partly due to the fact that the daytime traffic during the week is included in our numbers as from March 2011(*).

As regards the number of IFR movements, Charleroi ranks first (4,781), followed by Liège (3,637), Ostend (2,728) and Antwerp (2,454).

The VFR flights, which mainly consist of general aviation, are on the rise in Antwerp (4,205 movements or 3.19%), in Charleroi (4,006 movements or 7.51%) and in Liège (4,010 movements or 119.85%) where the impressive progress is mainly due to statistics (*). However, we observe a steep decline (3,123 or -42.79%) in Ostend that is partly the result of the harmonisation of the counting methods for the movements in the regional airports implemented in March 2011. The number of movements in the four regional airports total up to 15,344 VFR flights compared to 15,084 in September 2010 (1.72%).

Regarding the total number of movements, Charleroi ranks first with 8,787 movements, followed by Liège (7,647), Antwerp (6,659) and Ostend (5,851).

The overall statistics per regional airport are detailed on page 3 of the annex.

For your information: IFR = Instrument Flight Rule
 VFR = Visual Flight Rule

On March 1st 2011 the system used by Belgocontrol for drawing up statistics has been standardized for all regional public airports (Antwerp, Charleroi, Liège and Ostend). This harmonization can lead to discrepancies regarding the comparative evolution in the figures as far as the year 2010 is concerned.

The statistics provided by Belgocontrol combine movements at airports (arrivals and

departures) and movements performed in the airspace (holding, CTR/TMA crossing, heliport in the CTR...). Differences are possible compared to the figures provided by other sources, in particular airport operators.

()Moreover since March 1st 2011 Belgocontrol ensures air traffic control 24/7at the airport of Liège. Previously the military controlled air traffic by day in this zone from Monday to Friday. This change has an impact on the evolution in figures between 2010 and 2011 for the airport of Liège.*

ANNEX :[statistics11-14.pdf](#)

Belgocontrol is an autonomous public company, created on October 2nd 1998, with the mission to guarantee the safety of air navigation in the airspace for which Belgium is responsible. Its zone of activities extends from ground level (at Brussels Airport and the airports of Antwerp, Charleroi, Liege and Ostend) to flight level 245 (8,000 meters) above Belgium and from flight levels 145/165 to 245 for the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg. The EUROCONTROL centre in Maastricht is responsible for the area above 8,000 metres, and jointly manages the air traffic of the upper airspace of Belgium, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and the western part of Germany.

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