

Annual Report 2023



Version History:

Version	Date	Remark	Author
0.1	30.01.24	Initial Draft	Barboff
0.2	19.02.24	Inclusion of Airport Data	Barboff
0.3	12.07.24	Editorial Content	Hilger, Barboff
0.4	27.08.24	Version for Editorial Review	Hilger, Barboff
1.0	06.09.24	Final Version for Publication	Editorial Board

Imprint

Publisher: DFS Deutsche Flugsicherung GmbH
on behalf of German Harmonisation Initiative *A-CDM Germany*
Am DFS-Campus 10
D-63225 Langen
GERMANY

Contacts: Erik Sinz & Sebastian Barboff,
OZ/A Airspace & Aerodrome

Editorial Board: Sebastian Barboff
DFS Deutsche Flugsicherung GmbH
Am DFS-Campus 10
D-63225 Langen
GERMANY

Boris Breug
Flughafen München GmbH
D-85326 München-Flughafen
GERMANY

Stefan Hilger
Fraport AG
Frankfurt Airport Services Worldwide
D-60547 Frankfurt am Main
GERMANY

Nico Ruwe
Flughafen Stuttgart GmbH
Flughafenstraße 32
D-70629 Stuttgart
GERMANY

Date: 9 September 2024

Pages: 43

All rights reserved. Any use outside of the limits set by the German Urheberrechtsgesetz requires written permission of the publisher. Violations will be prosecuted in civil and criminal court. This includes copying, translating, microfiling, and storing and processing in electronic systems.

© DFS Deutsche Flugsicherung GmbH 2024

Content

1	MANAGEMENT SUMMARY	5
2	GERMAN HARMONISATION INITIATIVE A-CDM GERMANY	6
3	PURPOSE OF THE REPORT	8
4	RESULTS	9
4.1	GENERIC	10
4.1.1	NUMBER OF IFR DEPARTURES	10
4.1.2	SHARE OF REGULATED IFR DEPARTURES	12
4.1.3	SHARE OF IFR DEPARTURES REQUIRING DE-ICING	14
4.2	PROCEDURE ADHERENCE	15
4.2.1	ASAT QUALITY	15
4.2.2	AORT QUALITY	17
4.3	PROCEDURE PLANNING	19
4.3.1	TTOT QUALITY	19
4.3.2	SOBT QUALITY	21
4.3.3	TSAT QUALITY, DEVIATION AND STABILITY	23
4.3.4	EDIT QUALITY AND DEVIATION	30
4.3.5	POSITION STABILITY	32
4.4	NETWORK MANAGEMENT	34
4.4.1	ATFM SLOT ADHERENCE AND DEVIATION	34
4.4.2	CTOT QUALITY, DEVIATION AND STABILITY	37
4.4.3	AVERAGE ATFM DELAY	41
5	OUTLOOK	42
	LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	43
	LIST OF SOURCES	43

1 Management Summary

Introduction

This report covers a set of general Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) that were deemed by the Editorial Board to be comparable among the A-CDM airports Munich, Frankfurt, Düsseldorf, Berlin, Stuttgart, and Hamburg.

The KPIs contained within this report serve to continuously monitor the A-CDM process and usually portray only individual parts of the overall process.

The KPIs allow a measurement of A-CDM effects and steering of the process. They are the basis for local reporting at the individual airports. The KPIs were defined using input from EUROCONTROL's A-CDM Implementation Manual, experiences of the local German Airport CDM airports, as well as local and future necessities.

The report is intended to provide a general overview of KPI trends at the A-CDM airports, as well as serve as basis for decisions regarding adjustments to or steering of the A-CDM process.

This report describes the experiences, measurements and results of the calendar year 2023. It utilises regular evaluations and measurements on a monthly basis, the conclusions that are drawn address points that were mutually agreed by *ACDM Germany* which are reflected in the KPI Concept.

Summary of Results and Tendencies

After the end of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the trend of increasing traffic numbers at German A-CDM airports continued unabatedly in 2023. Catch-up effects related to leisure travel led to growth rates of 20% in the first half of the year compared to the same period of the previous year. This increase then shallowed during the rest of the summer period as the second half of 2022 already showed a strong rebound of holiday travel. Despite this positive development, traffic numbers at all German airports still remained well below 2019 levels. This contrasts with other European nations where traffic volume at some airports already reached or even exceeded these levels.

Both the years 2022 and 2023 showed that flight demand and available resources for its turnaround need to be well-balanced in order to reach a high quality of TOBT prognosis. The latter is essential for target time calculations as well as for planning and stability of all related processes and using available resources as efficiently as possible. Some indicators already reflect the effects of measures taken at airports to stabilize processes. However, operational circumstances and process qualities have not yet reached 2019 levels.

The rise of traffic numbers across Europe and the connected increase in network effects in the shape of high numbers of regulations and a further increase in CTOT volatility partly counteracted stabilizing efforts during peak periods at airports. Plannability of the turnaround process and TOBT quality is affected by unpredictability of other flights at the same airport due to shared resources being required.

At some airport, these interdependencies have reduced the positive effect of A-CDM on plannability and stability of airport processes especially during peak traffic, thereby failing to match the levels reached during the most traffic-rich months before the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

Local reporting routines and A-CDM process performance monitoring help to recognize these situations and commence targeted projects aimed at improving turnaround predictions, e.g. by increased resource allocation, monitoring of individual aircraft turnarounds and usage of digital technologies to increase transparency. These can enable sufficiently accurate target time predictions in the future.

2 German Harmonisation Initiative A-CDM Germany

2.1 European A-CDM Concept

Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) is the operational approach (idea/concept/process) to achieving an optimal turnaround process at airports. A-CDM covers the period from EOBT -3 h until take-off. It is a continuous process beginning with processing of the ATC flight plan, via landing of the inbound flight, the turnaround process on the ground, to departure.

By exchanging estimated landing and take-off times between the A-CDM airports and Network Management Operations Centre (NMOC), airports can be further integrated into the European ATM Network EATMN.

A-CDM improves operational collaboration between the partners:

- Airport Operator,
- Aircraft Operators,
- Handling Agencies,
- Ground Handling Agencies,
- Air Navigation Service Provider, and
- European Air Traffic Flow Management (NMOC).

A-CDM in Germany is based upon the European A-CDM spirit, the Community Specification of A-CDM, as well as recommendations by the German Harmonisation Initiative *A-CDM Germany*.

A-CDM aims to optimise utilisation of available capacity and operational resources at airports and within European airspace through high-quality target times and efficiency increases in the individual steps of the turnaround process.

2.2 German Harmonisation Initiative for A-CDM

European A-CDM fundamentally relies on Community Specification EN 303212. However, development of A-CDM in Germany has shown a need of harmonisation to a level of detail that is beyond the Specification's scope.

The A-CDM partners recognised this need and founded the German Harmonisation Initiative *A-CDM Germany*. Collaboration within the Initiative is determined by a Letter of Intent that was signed by all partners.

Partners within *A-CDM Germany* are currently:

- Deutsche Flugsicherung (DFS)
- Munich Airport (FMG)
- Frankfurt Airport (Fraport)
- Berlin Airport (FBB)
- Düsseldorf Airport (FDG)
- Stuttgart Airport (FSG)
- Hamburg Airport (FHG)
- Leipzig/Halle Airport (FLHG)

Leipzig/Halle Airport has commenced an Airport CDM project and is therefore already a member of *A-CDM Germany*, however implementation has not been completed yet. Therefore, Leipzig/Halle is not shown in the following chapters.

A-CDM Germany's goals are, among others:

- Exchange of information and best practices between the various *A-CDM* airports,
- Common understanding of *A-CDM* in Germany and common representation towards international partners (Eurocontrol, EU, ICAO, IATA)
- Harmonisation in the interest of partners and customers (“one face to the customer”)
- Best Practices developed within *A-CDM Germany* can be provided to other European *A-CDM* projects and working groups to advance harmonisation.

Creation and coordination of harmonised procedures and documentations are achieved within *A-CDM Germany's* working groups and regular harmonisation meetings.

3 Purpose of the Report

This document shows A-CDM KPIs that are generally comparable across A-CDM airports in Germany. KPIs fit for inclusion in this report were selected by a working group with participation of all A-CDM airports as well as DFS. The group also defined required data to be gathered and calculation rules.

This report is not intended to replace local KPIs, nor does it pre-empt local KPI reporting routines. It is designed as a baseline to which local KPI concepts and reports can add additional indicators or even measure the same KPIs using different criteria.

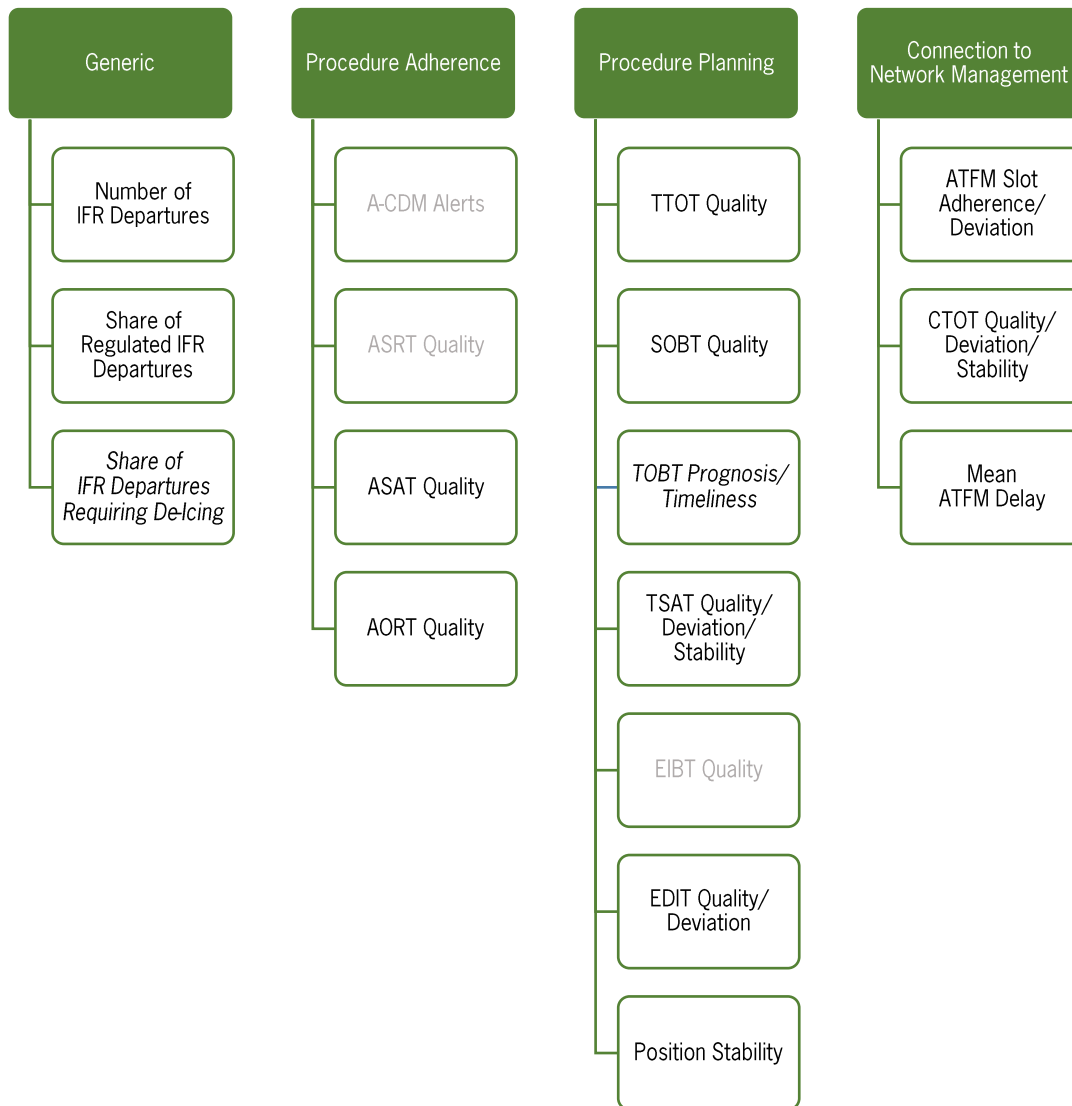
The common reporting that serves as basis for the KPIs contained within this report provide A-CDM airports with the opportunity of highlighting changes and developments, recognising potential for improvements, and developing harmonised A-CDM subprocesses.

Further details regarding the A-CDM process and its specifics at the individual airports are described within the local A-CDM procedure descriptions and publications.

4 Results

In order to achieve the local operational and network benefits associated with A-CDM, the quality of target times and process adherence are essential. For this reason, commonly available indicators from the following categories were selected:

- Generic Traffic Numbers
- Procedure Adherence of A-CDM Partners
- Procedure Planning
- Connection to Network Management



The KPIs coloured in light grey are not yet part of this report as the necessary historic data is not yet available at all German A-CDM airports. As soon as this changes, they will be included in a subsequent Annual KPI Report.

4.1 Generic

4.1.1 Number of IFR Departures

Description

Number of IFR departures within the calendar year as well as the previous calendar year and 2019 reference values

Goal

Show the amount and trend of traffic

Charts

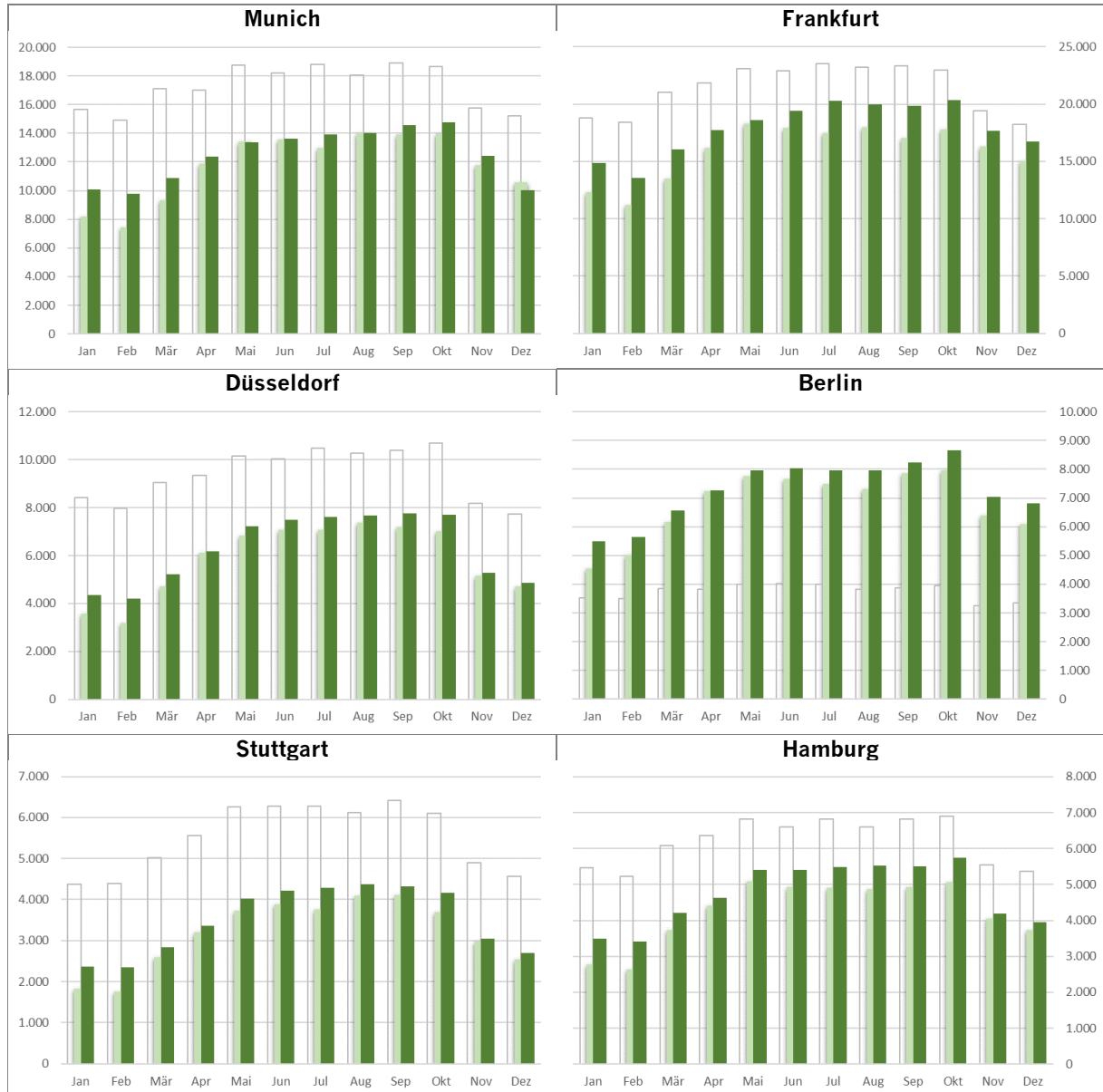


Fig. 1: Number of IFR departures, previous year (light green) and 2019 (white)

Conclusion

The six German A-CDM airports' share of total IFR departures in the year 2023 was 72.1% which is significantly more than in the previous year.

After the end of the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic, the trend of increasing traffic numbers at German A-CDM airports continued unabatedly in 2023. Catch-up effects related to leisure travel led to growth rates of 20% in the first half of the year compared to the same period of the previous year. This increase then shallowed during the rest of the summer period as the second half of 2022 already showed a strong rebound of holiday travel. Despite this positive development, traffic numbers at all German airports still remained well below 2019 levels. This contrasts with other European nations where traffic volume at some airports already reached or even exceeded these levels.

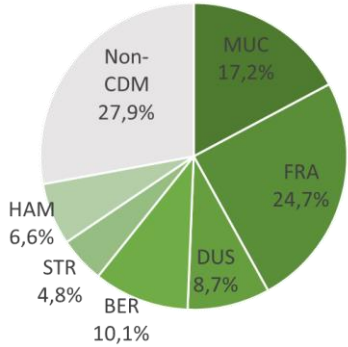


Fig. 2: Share of total departures originating from A-CDM airports in Germany

4.1.2 Share of Regulated IFR Departures

Description

Share of IFR departures with ATFM slot (CTOT), in %

Goal

Illustrate the monthly share of IFR departures that were subject to an air traffic flow measure by NMOG.

Charts

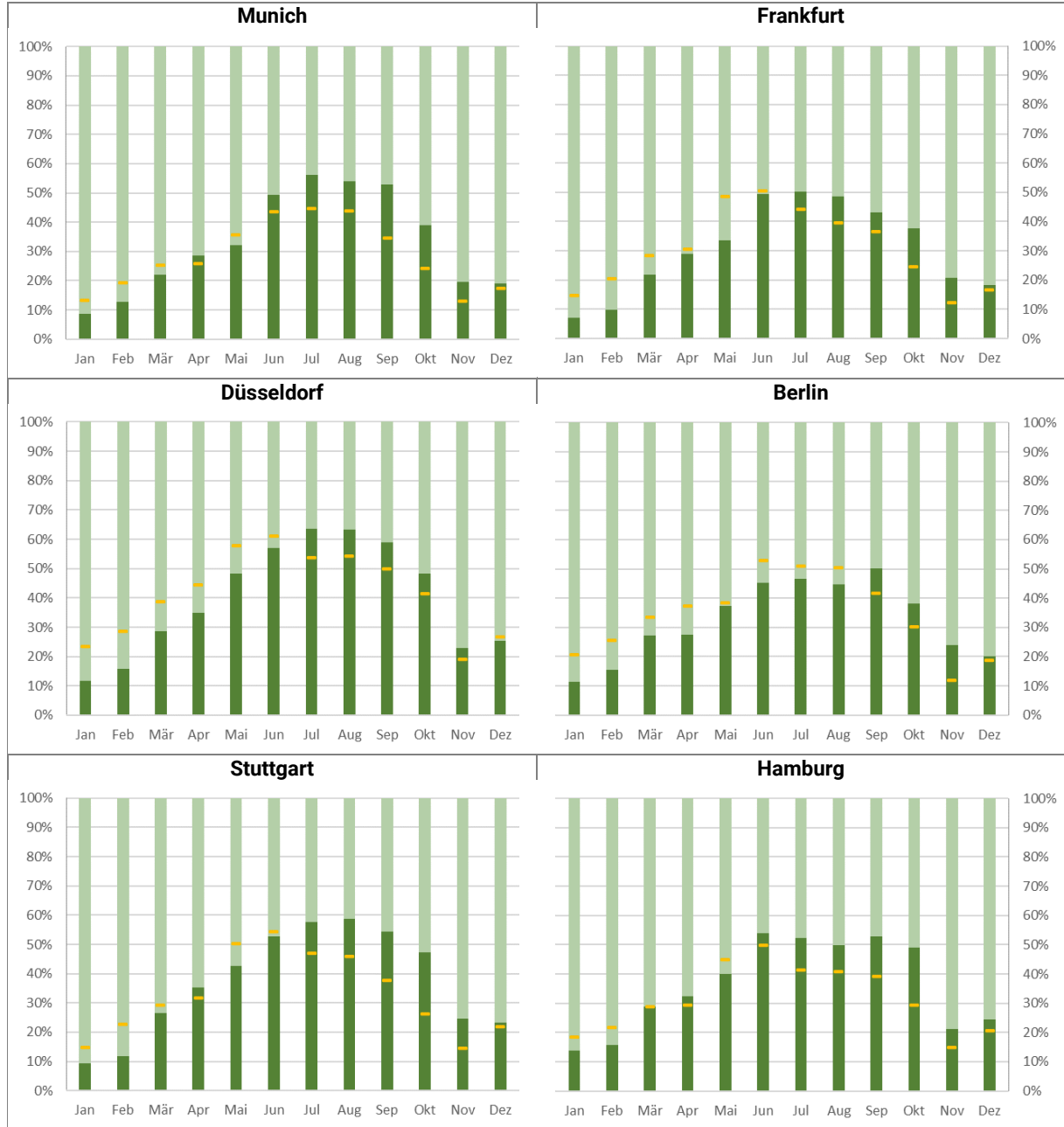


Fig. 3: Share of unregulated (light green) and regulated (dark green) IFR departures, and 2019 share (yellow)

Conclusion

Although European traffic numbers during the year 2023 did not yet reach 2019 levels, the share of regulated flights especially during the summer months was significantly higher than in 2019. ATFM delay was also higher than during the highest-traffic periods before the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic. This was due to resource shortages at ANSPs and airports as well as airspace closures because of the Russia-Ukraine war. The latter caused significant rerouting of traffic flows around the conflict area.

The high number of regulated flights, combined with heavy CTOT volatility (see section 4.4.2) exacerbated the resource-related problems at airports and could not be significantly dampened through local measures such as increased volume of ground handling staff. ATFM delay of one flight translates into longer engagement times of ground handling staff, which was already affected by severe lack of suitably qualified personnel. This results in unplanned knock-on delays for other flights.

4.1.3 Share of IFR Departures Requiring De-icing

Description

Share of IFR departures that required aircraft deicing, in %

Goal

This KPI serves only as context information for other KPIs, e.g. TSAT Quality.

Charts

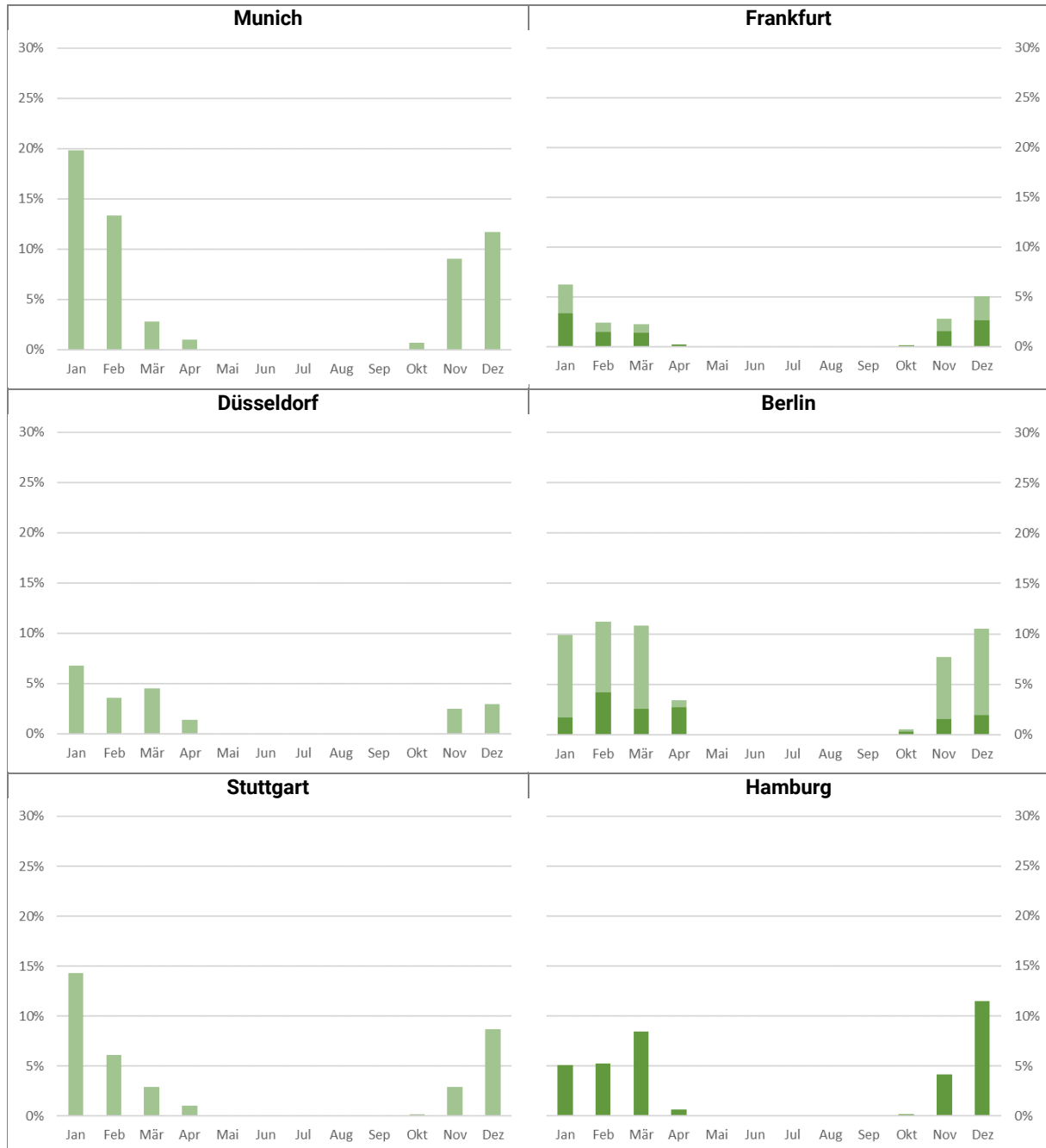


Fig. 4: Share of IFR departures requiring aircraft de-icing on stand (dark green) and remotely (light green)

Most airports only do remote de-icing, i.e. on designated de-icing areas. In this case, deicing takes place after TSAT.

In the case of on-stand de-icing the flights are deiced on their parking stands, i.e. after TOBT but before TSAT. Planned de-icing begin and duration are included in the TSAT calculation.

4.2 Procedure Adherence

4.2.1 ASAT Quality

Description

Share of IFR departures that received startup approval (ASAT) within TSAT ± 5 min via radio, in %

Goal

Measure procedure adherence of Air Traffic Control (Tower)

Charts

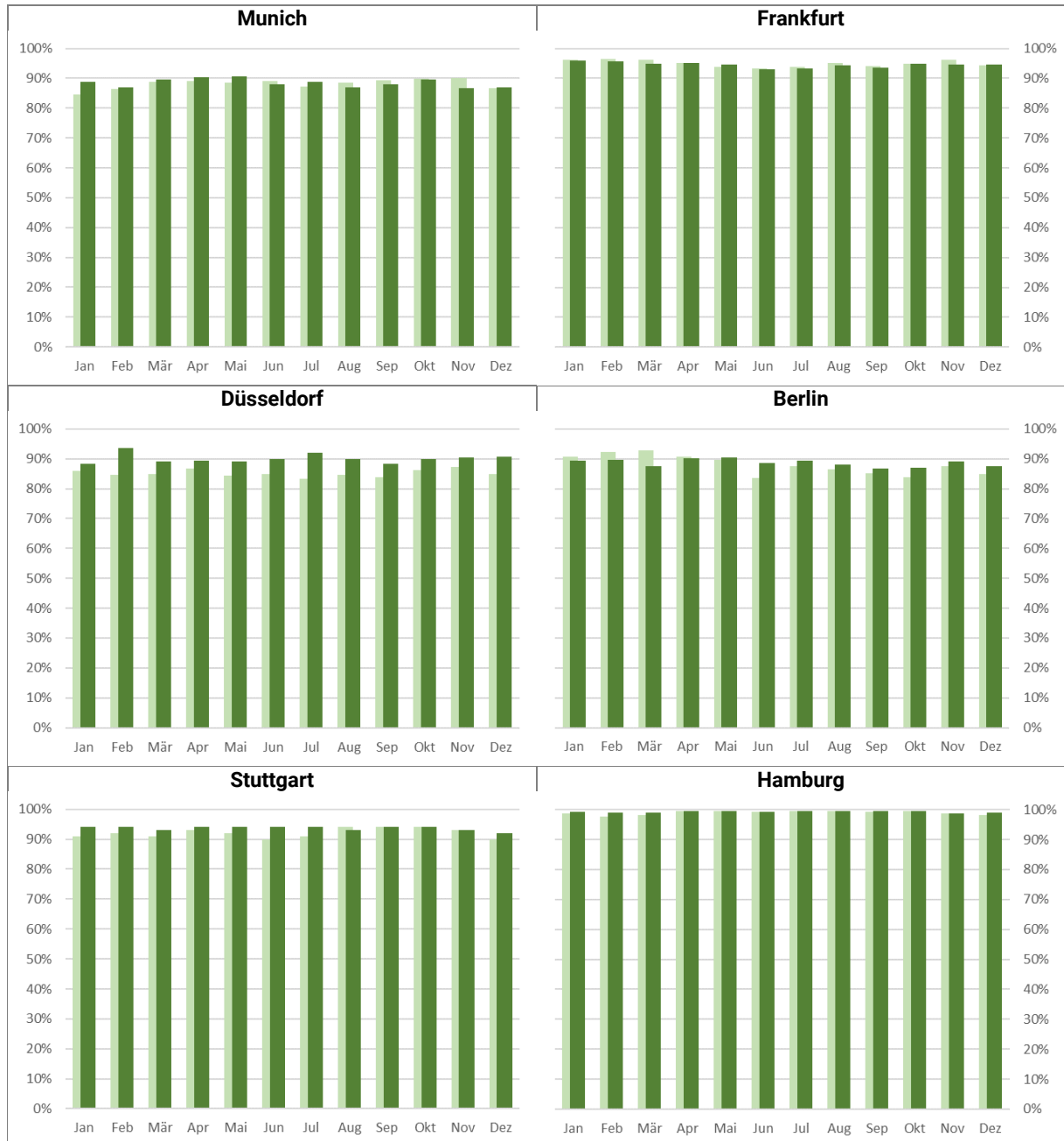


Fig. 5: Share of IFR departures that received start-up approval within TSAT ± 5 min via radio, compared to the previous year (light green)

Conclusion

After having had a lower ASAT quality during the previous years, Düsseldorf Airport has rejoined the other airports at the usual level of around 90% or above.

Munich Airport shows slightly lower ASAT quality during the winter months than the other airports. This relates to periods of high demand for remote de-icing where flights tend to be started up earlier than TSAT in order to allow a maximally efficient use of de-icing resources.

4.2.2 AORT Quality

Description

Share of IFR departures that asked for their off-block clearance (AORT) within the window of ASAT + 5 min (start-up via radio) or TSAT ± 5 min (start-up via datalink), in %

Goal

Measure procedure adherence of the Flight Crew

Charts

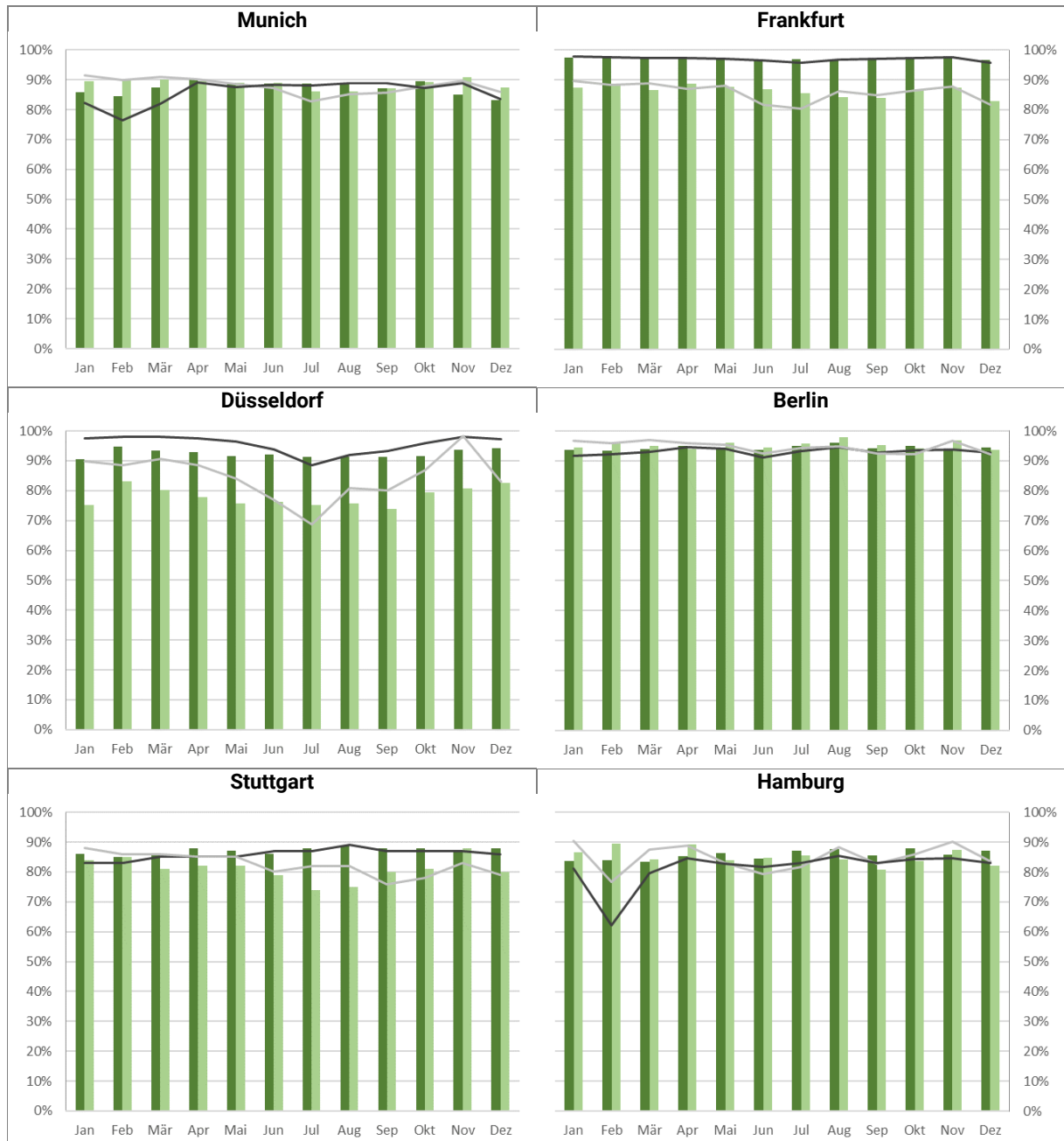


Fig. 6: Share of IFR departures with conformant AORT (green) compared to the previous year (grey), radio in darker shade, datalink in lighter shade

Conclusion

AORT quality is shown only for flights' final off-block requests that resulted in off-block clearance. Denied off-block requests, for instance after exceeding ASAT time tolerance, are not considered.

At the airports Frankfurt, Düsseldorf and partly also Stuttgart, AORT quality appears to be higher when using radio than when using datalink. Requests via datalink are often submitted before the turnaround has actually completed which may negatively affect TSAT window compliance as no direct enforcement by TWR can take place. Requests via radio, however, are usually submitted at the end of turnaround activities which tends to be correlated with off-block requests sooner afterwards. Also, TWR normally rejects start-up requests that are submitted too early which makes off-block requests outside of the TSAT window less likely.

4.3 Procedure Planning

4.3.1 TTOT Quality

Description

Progression of the difference between current E/TOBT + current EXOT to ATOT (in minutes), in 5-minute intervals from 120 minutes prior ATOT.

Goal

Determination of TTOT prediction quality as reported to the Network Manager for unregulated flights.

Charts

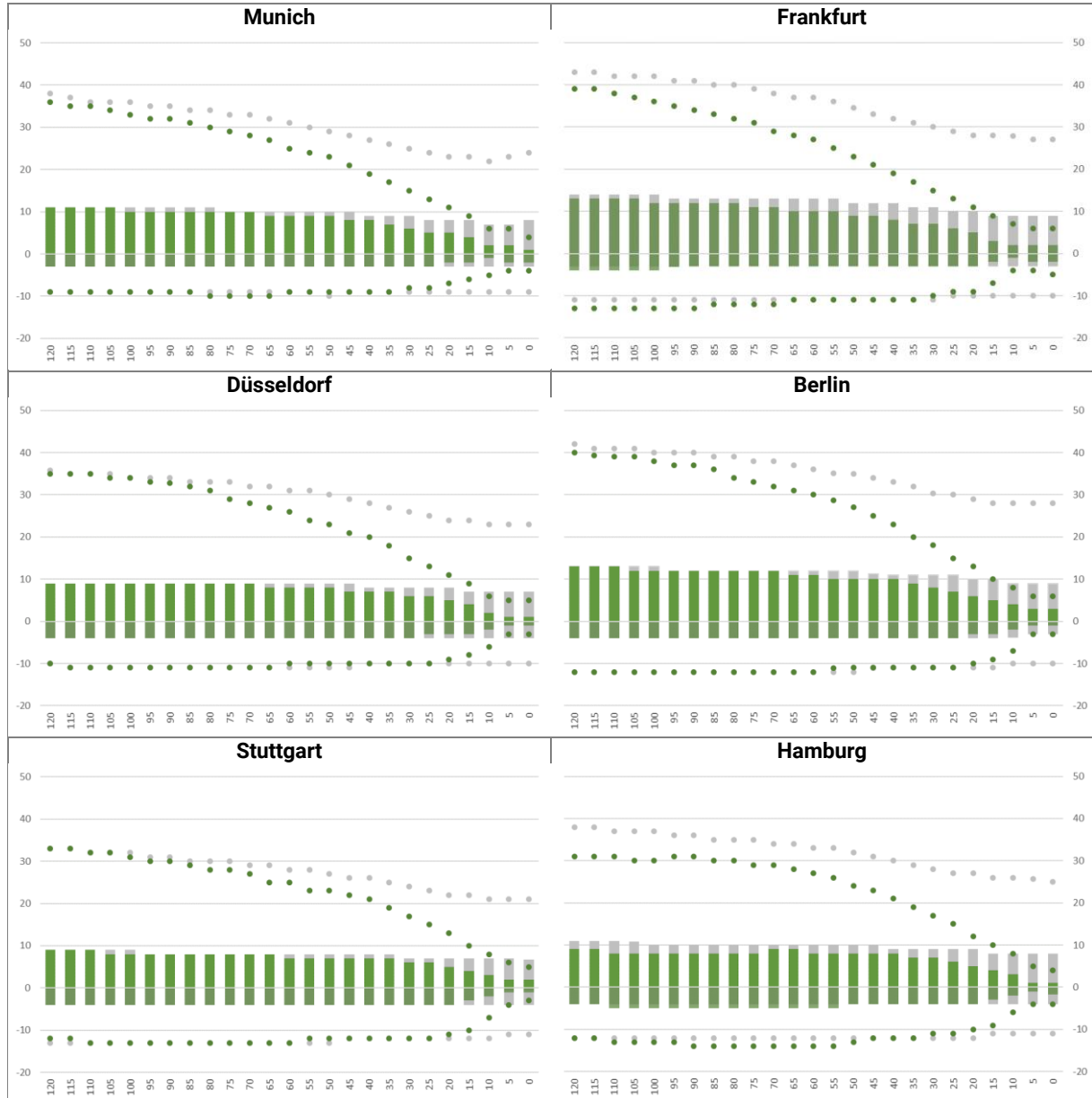


Fig. 7: Median (columns) and 90th percentile (dots) differences between E/TTOT and ATOT in minutes with a given lead time in minutes prior ATOT, split by flights with E/TTOT < ATOT (positive Y values) and E/TTOT > ATOT (negative Y values). ETOT in grey, TTOT in green.

Conclusion

Generally, every flight has a predicted take-off time based upon the ATC FPL's EOBT (ETOT). A-CDM airports additionally provide a prediction based upon the locally updated TOBT and the current departure capacity (TTOT). Both values are available to the Network Manager.

The above charts show that predictions based on local A-CDM data have a lower deviation from actual take-off times than those based on ATC FPLs only. From 90 to 50 minutes before departure, this improved quality is most pronounced because both TOBT and TSAT process are factored in at this stage.

Improved take-off predictions allow a more accurate traffic prognosis for the purpose of Air Traffic Flow Management and a more efficient use of airspace capacity.

4.3.2 SOBT Quality

Description

Monthly share of flights whose first EOBT provided in an ATC flight plan is equal to the SOBT agreed with the Airport Coordinator, in %

Goal

Difference between seasonal planning vs. first planning on the day of operations

Charts

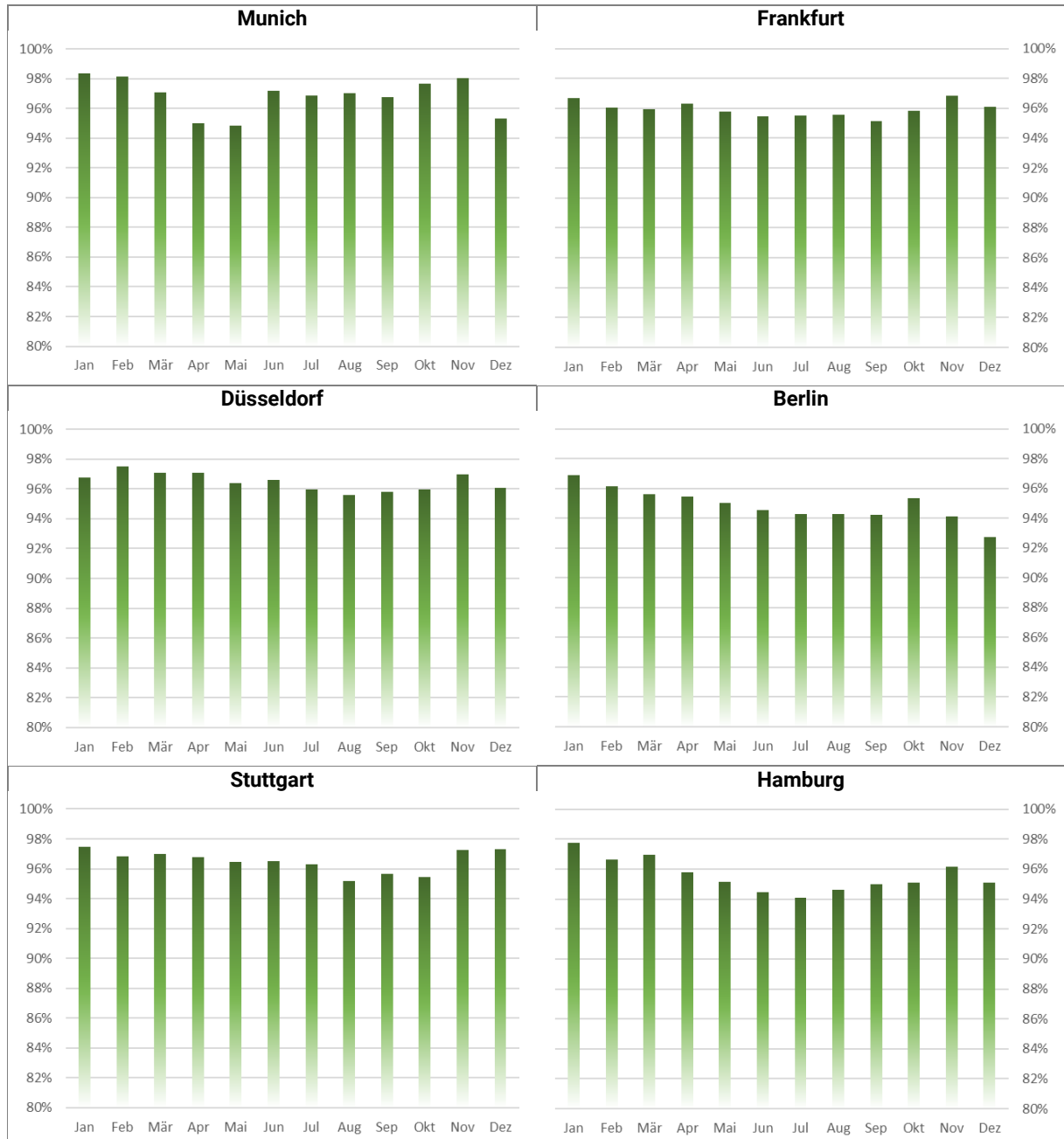


Fig. 8: Monthly share of IFR departures where first EOBT = SOBT

Conclusion

A high SOBT quality shows reliability of the strategic planning processes (seasonal planning) compared to the actual flight intention as expressed by the ATC flight plan. Significant differences between flight planning and slot coordination are being monitored and investigated by the German Airport Coordinator's Slot Performance Monitoring.

4.3.3 TOBT Prognosis and Timeliness

TOBT Prognosis

Description

Difference of TOBT and its input time. A score of 100% is granted if the difference is at least 10 minutes. Lower differences result in a linear score reduction which reaches 0% if the difference is 5 minutes or less.

Goal

Scoring the amount of foresight that goes into TOBT updates

Charts



Fig. 9: Average Prognosis score of all TOBT updates per month compared to the same month in the previous year (light green) and 2019 (white).

TOBT Timeliness

Description

Difference of current TOBT and input time of a new TOBT. A score of 100% is granted if the difference is at least 10 minutes. Lower differences result in a linear score reduction which reaches 0% if the difference is 5 minutes or less.

Goal

Scoring how close to the existing TOBT an update is provided

Charts



Fig. 10: Average Timeliness score of all TOBT updates per month compared to the same month in the previous year (light green) and 2019 (white).

Conclusion

At the larger airports Munich, Frankfurt and Berlin, positive progress in TOBT Timeliness scores can be seen during the peak summer months. This correlates with measures to stabilize the summer peak and enable improved predictability, such as increased staffing, communication, introduction of the Ground Coordination function at Munich Airport, introduction of Turnaround Management function at Frankfurt Airport).

This potential for improvement, however, was weakened by more regulations and related CTOT updates. As some members of the ground handling team are required to remain with an aircraft until AOBT, they are not available for other aircraft in the meantime. If CTOT and, consequently, TSAT of a flight change frequently, this period of added staff unavailability becomes increasingly harder to predict which makes other flights' TOBT planning more difficult if the same staffing resources are required.

Hamburg Airport has been able to maintain its high TOBT Timeliness score since 2022. This is due to updates of automatic TOBT until AIBT of the connected inbound flight in case no manual TOBT was made available already by the TOBT handler. These early TOBT updates increase the TOBT Timeliness score.

4.3.4 TSAT Quality, Deviation and Stability

TSAT Quality

Description

Monthly share of last TSATs that were equal to TOBT, in %

Goal

Operational adherence to planning on the day of operations.

Charts

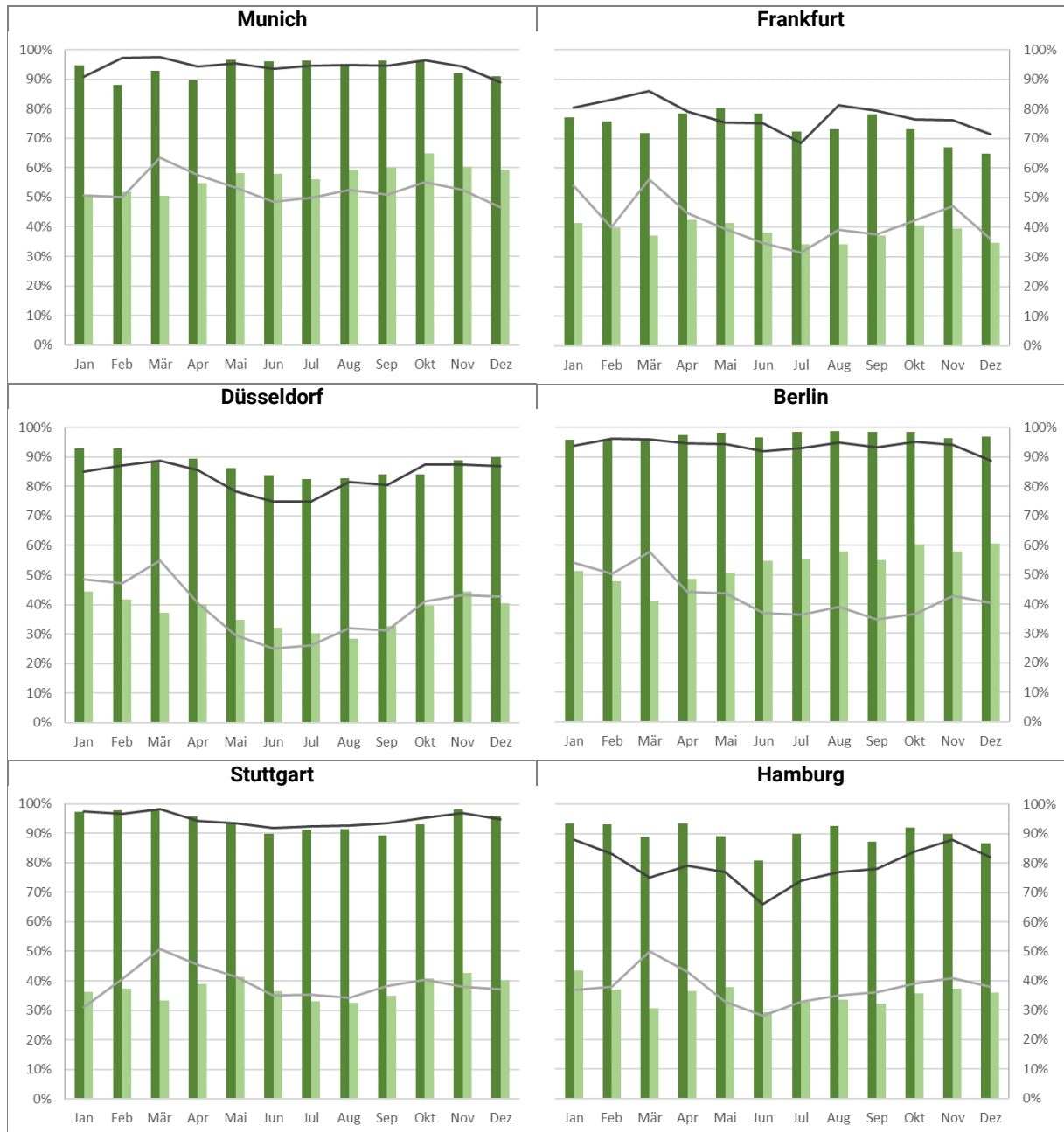


Fig. 11: Share of regulated and unregulated IFR departures (green) vs. previous year (grey) where last TSAT = TOBT. Non-regulated flights in darker shade, regulated lighter.

TSAT Deviation

Description

Monthly mean deviation of TOBT and last TSAT, in minutes

Goal

Show mean deviation of planning on day of operations versus actual operations

Charts



Fig. 12: Mean deviation of last TSAT and TOBT in minutes (green) vs. previous year (grey). Non-regulated flights in darker shade, regulated lighter.

TSAT Stability

Description

Number of TSAT changes from first publication (TOBT – 40 min) for non-regulated and regulated flights

Goal

Measuring TSAT stability

Charts



Fig. 13: Mean number of TSAT changes per regulated (light green) and non-regulated (dark green) flight and month with-out first TSAT, including deletions

Conclusion

For unregulated flights, a low TSAT quality shows that local capacity constraints have caused delays. For regulated flights, TSAT generally follows CTOT and therefore correlates more with ATFM delay.

At Frankfurt Airport, TSAT delays for unregulated flights occurred all year and at the airports Düsseldorf and Hamburg during the summer season, though to a lesser extent. In Düsseldorf, the times of permitted two-runway operations have to be applied for days in advance and therefore do not necessarily manage to cover the peak traffic periods on any given day. In Hamburg with its crossing runways, total runway capacity is relatively low in certain configurations.

Overall, regulated flights showed a less stable TSAT due to numerous CTOT updates than unregulated flights. For the airports where demand is close to capacity for larger parts of the day, however, this instability translated to unregulated flights which also received more TSAT updates. CTOT updates tend to destabilize a densely packed pre-departure sequence in general.

4.3.5 EDIT Quality and Deviation

EDIT Quality

Description

Monthly share of IFR departures with on-stand de-icing or remote de-icing whose EDIT was within ADIT ± 3 min, in %

Goal

Verify the reliability of estimated de-icing duration as input parameter for A-CDM

Charts

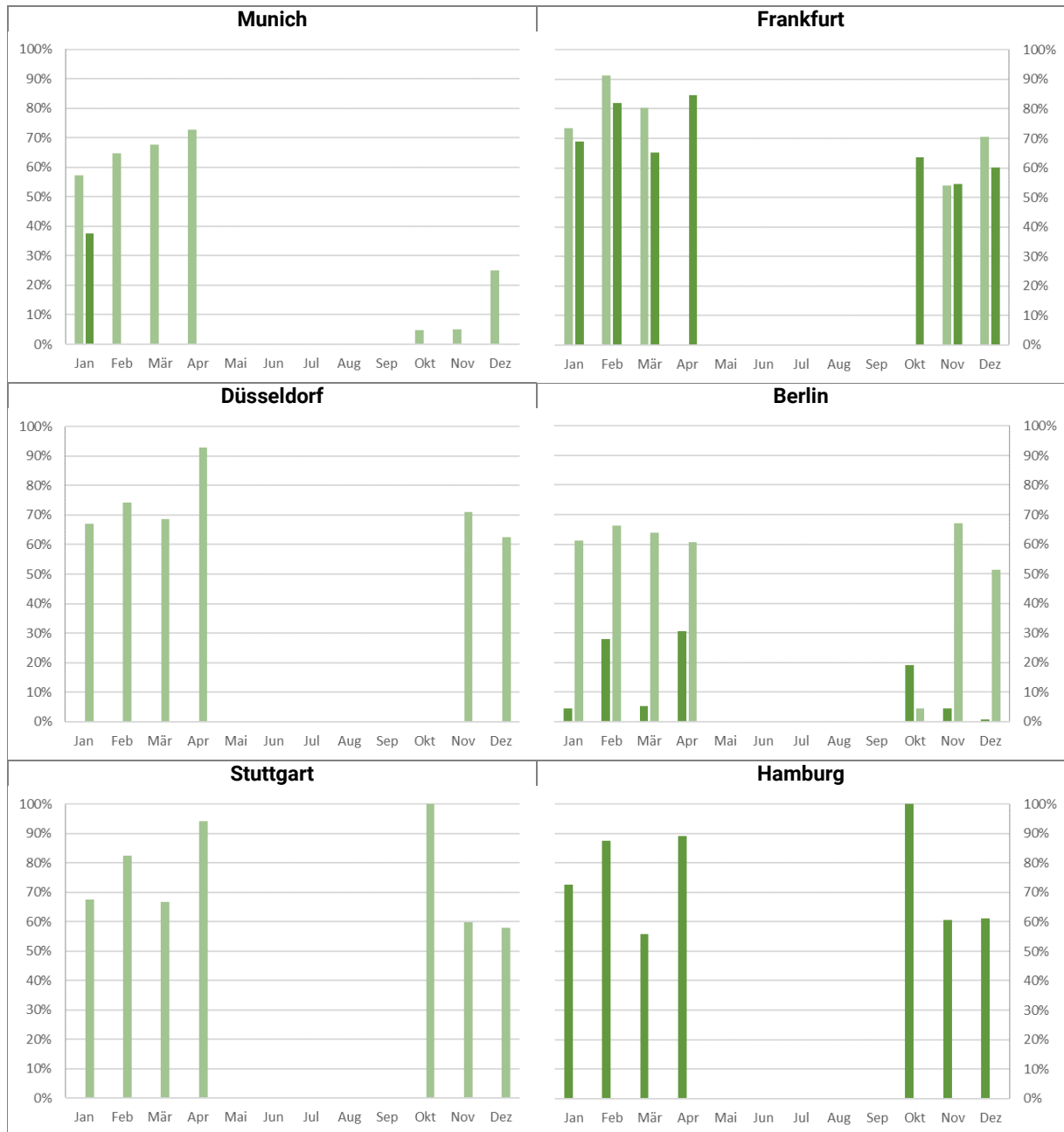


Fig. 14: Percentage of flights with on-stand (dark green) and remote de-icing (light green) where EDIT = ADIT ± 3 min

EDIT Deviation

Description

Monthly mean deviation of ADIT and EDIT for IFR departures with on-stand deicing or remote deicing in minutes per deiced flight and airport, in minutes

Goal

Verify the accuracy of estimated deicing duration as input parameter for A-CDM

Diagramme

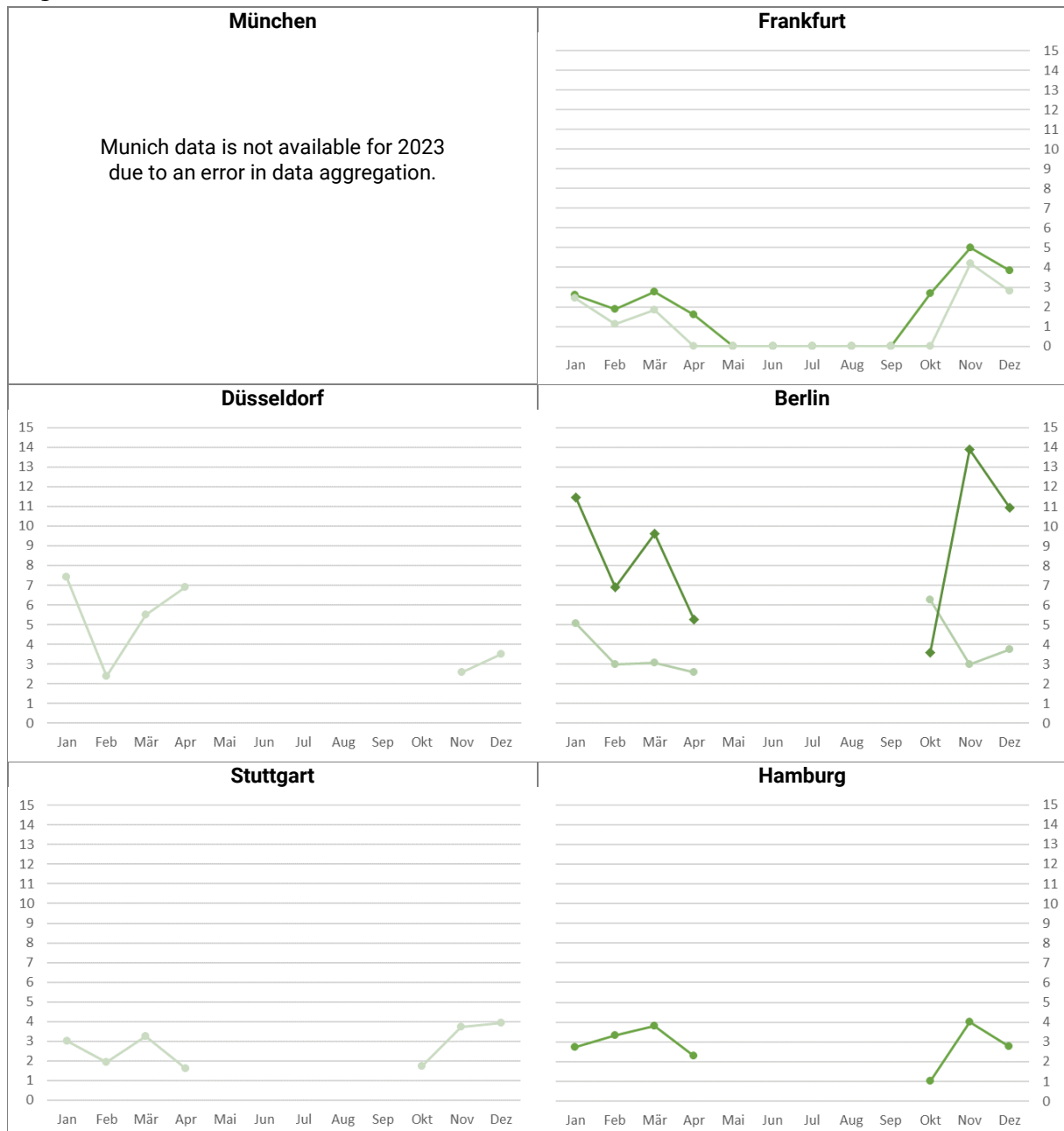


Fig. 15: Mean deviation in minutes of EDIT and ADIT for on-stand (dark green) and remote deicing (light green)

Conclusion

EDIT quality for remote deicing is generally higher as the process itself is less prone to disturbances and, therefore, easier to plan. On-stand deicing performance depends on the location of the parking stand and activities on neighbouring areas which makes accurate EDIT predictions more difficult.

4.3.6 Position Stability

Description

Share of IFR arrivals for whom no position change had to be effected from ALDT-10 min until AIBT, in %

Goal

Determine the number of short-term position changes at the airport in relation to ELDT and ALDT. Indicates the reliability of positioning information for process planning.

Charts

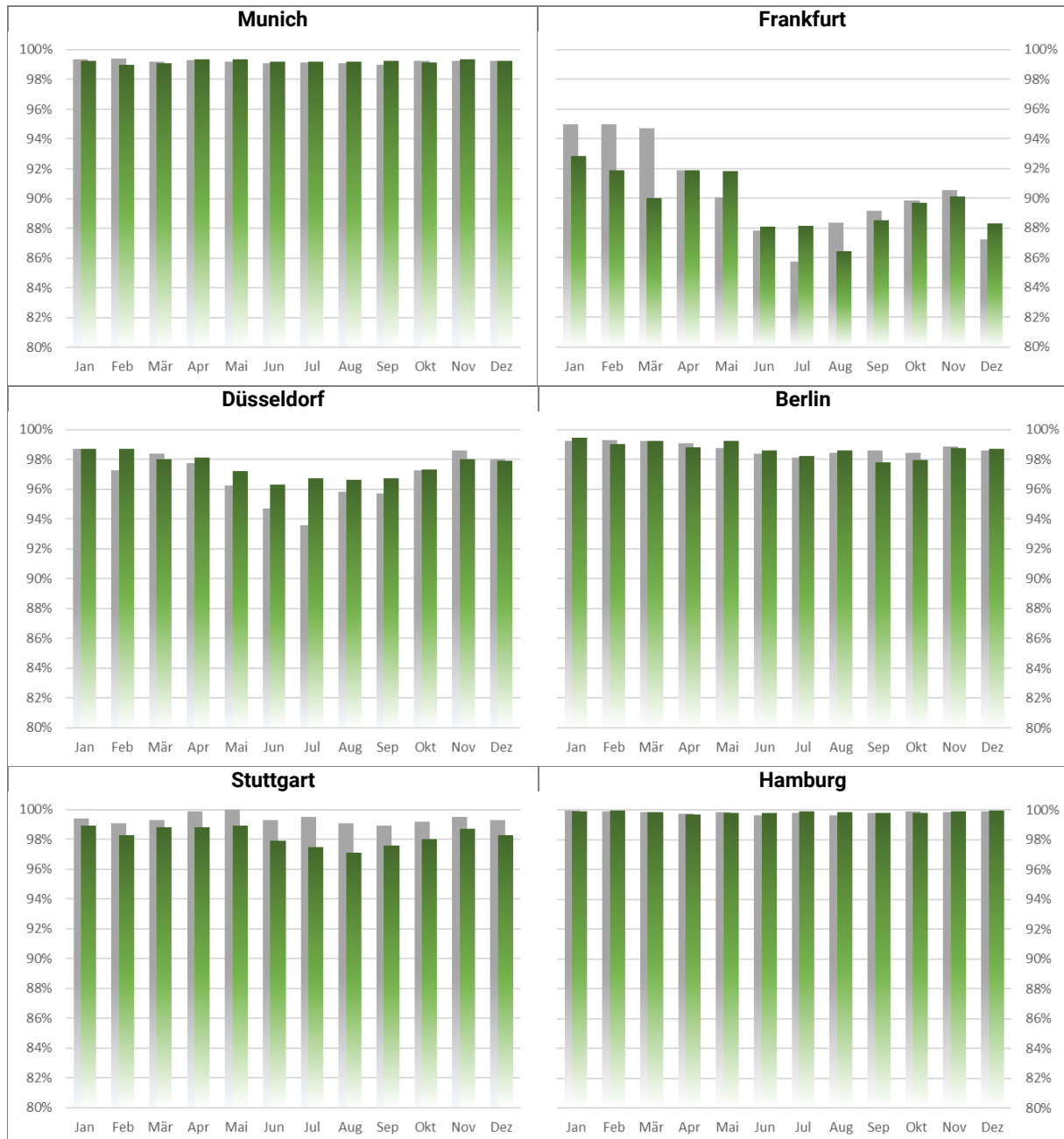


Fig. 16: Share of flights where no short-term position change was necessary, compared to previous year (grey)

Conclusion

At highly utilized Frankfurt Airport, the summer months showed the same effect of unstable ground processes by lower position stability as in the previous year. The difficulties of high CTOT volatility combined with limited stand and gate resources resulted in unclear perspectives on when parking stands were indeed going to be vacated, so more landings had to be repositioned on short notice. This effect was also visible in early 2023 due to waiting times for de-icing.

Düsseldorf Airport was able to improve position stability during the summer months compared to the previous year.

The differences between the current and previous year at Stuttgart Airport are due to an error in calculations for the 2022 numbers.

4.4 Network Management

4.4.1 ATFM Slot Adherence and Deviation

ATFM Slot Adherence

Description

Share of flights adhering or not adhering to Slot Tolerance Window prescribed by NM, in %

Goal

Measure procedure adherence of regulated flights. Nominally, ATOT should be within the Slot Tolerance Window (STW, usually CTOT -5/+10 min but may be extended in special conditions). Adjustment of the CTOT to the local TTOT within the A-CDM process improves ATFM slot adherence, pre-departure sequence and procedure adherence.

“Early” flights have an ATOT before STW begin, “late” flights have their ATOT after STW end.

Charts

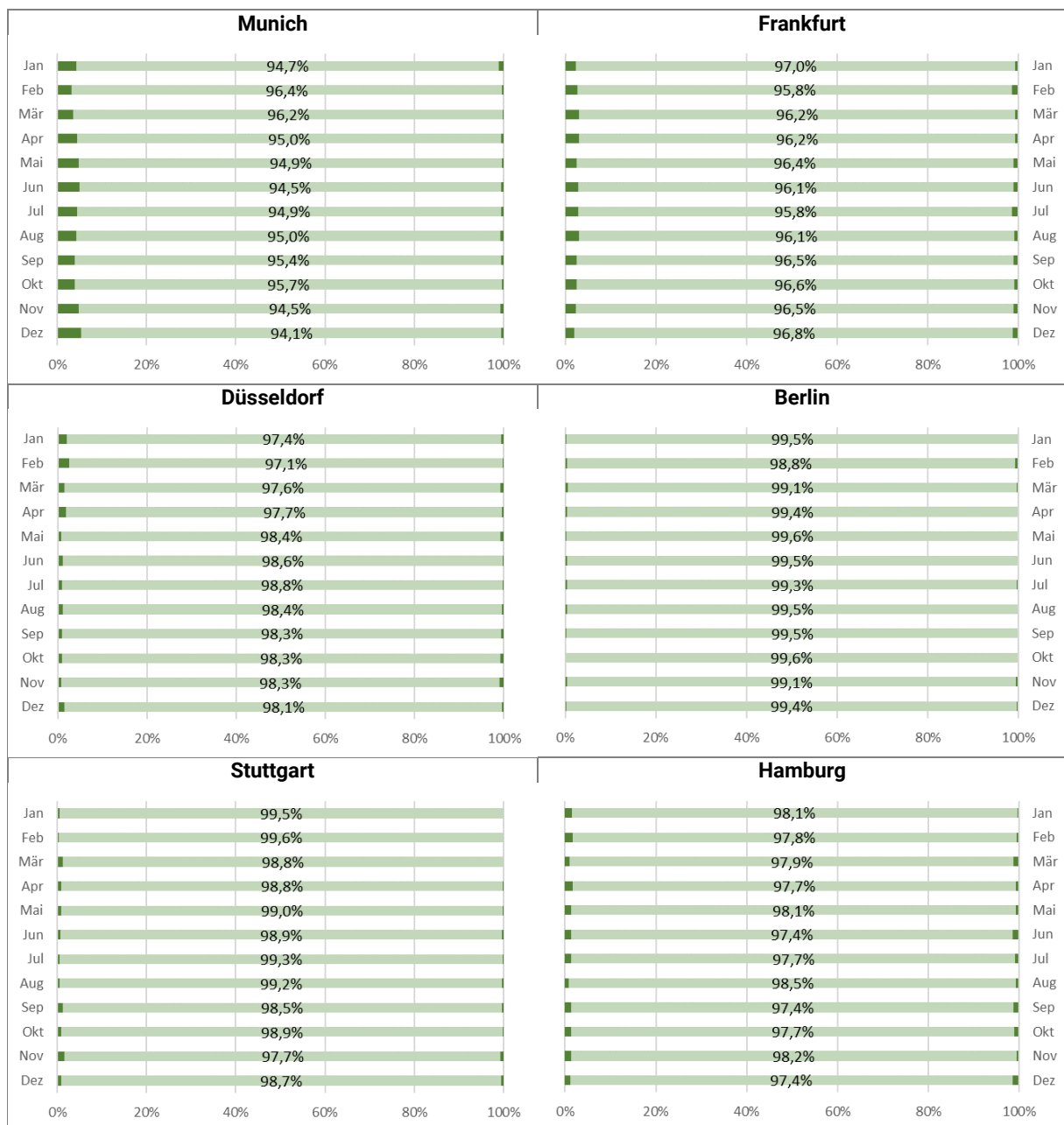


Fig. 1: Share of flights with ATOT before (dark green left), within (light green) and after (dark green right) STW

ATFM Slot Deviation

Description

Mean Deviation from the STW prescribed by NM, in minutes

Goal

Measure the level of slot deviations for regulated flights. This measurement counts only flights whose ATOT was outside of the Slot Tolerance Window and measures the time in minutes between ATOT and the nearest STW limit. “Early” flights have an ATOT before STW begin, “late” flights have their ATOT after STW end.

Charts



Fig. 2: Mean deviation in minutes of ATOT and STW for early (light green) and late (dark green) departures

Conclusion

Despite a higher share of regulated flights than in 2019, all airports achieved an even better ATFM Slot Adherence in 2023, same as in 2022. Overall traffic demand was still lower than 2019, so this improvement was likely caused by fewer conflicts on taxi routes at the airports which might have made adherence to the ATFM slot more difficult operationally.

At Munich and Berlin Airports data shows that during the winter months of January (Munich) and November (Berlin) occasional difficulties arose in predicting de-icing times which caused some flights to depart outside of their respective slot tolerance windows. Similar effects at Frankfurt Airport during the months of June to September can be explained by increased thunderstorm activity.

At Munich Airport, a significant share of flights depart earlier than their Slot Tolerance Window, though not by a large margin as evidenced by the low Slot Deviation indicator. This is due to regulated flights being sequenced at the runway at CTOT – 5 minutes rather than at CTOT as on the other airports. This increases the likelihood of flights departing slightly earlier than their Slot Tolerance Window.

Another significant observation is that during several months the average ATFM Slot Deviation for flights that departed too early is significantly higher at the airports Berlin, Düsseldorf und Hamburg. This deviation is caused by a low single-figure number of departures, each subject of considerable ATFM delay, where several late TOBT updates were observed. Measures intended to improve CTOTs, such as reporting the flights as ready to the Network Manager Operations Centre, proved ineffective.

Available data for each flight indicates that those flights, already plagued by turnaround disruptions, received particularly lenient treatment during start-up and take-off long before CTOT in order to avoid further delays to them. These flights clearly show the significance of reliable TOBTs as basis for planning during periods of high airspace utilization.

4.4.2 CTOT Quality, Deviation and Stability

CTOT Quality

Description

Monthly percentage of IFR departures with CTOT = TTOT+≤5 min/+≤15 min/+>15 min at First CTOT, First TSAT Issue and AOBT

Goal

Measure suitability of network CTOT to the local A-CDM process over the progress of a turnaround

Charts

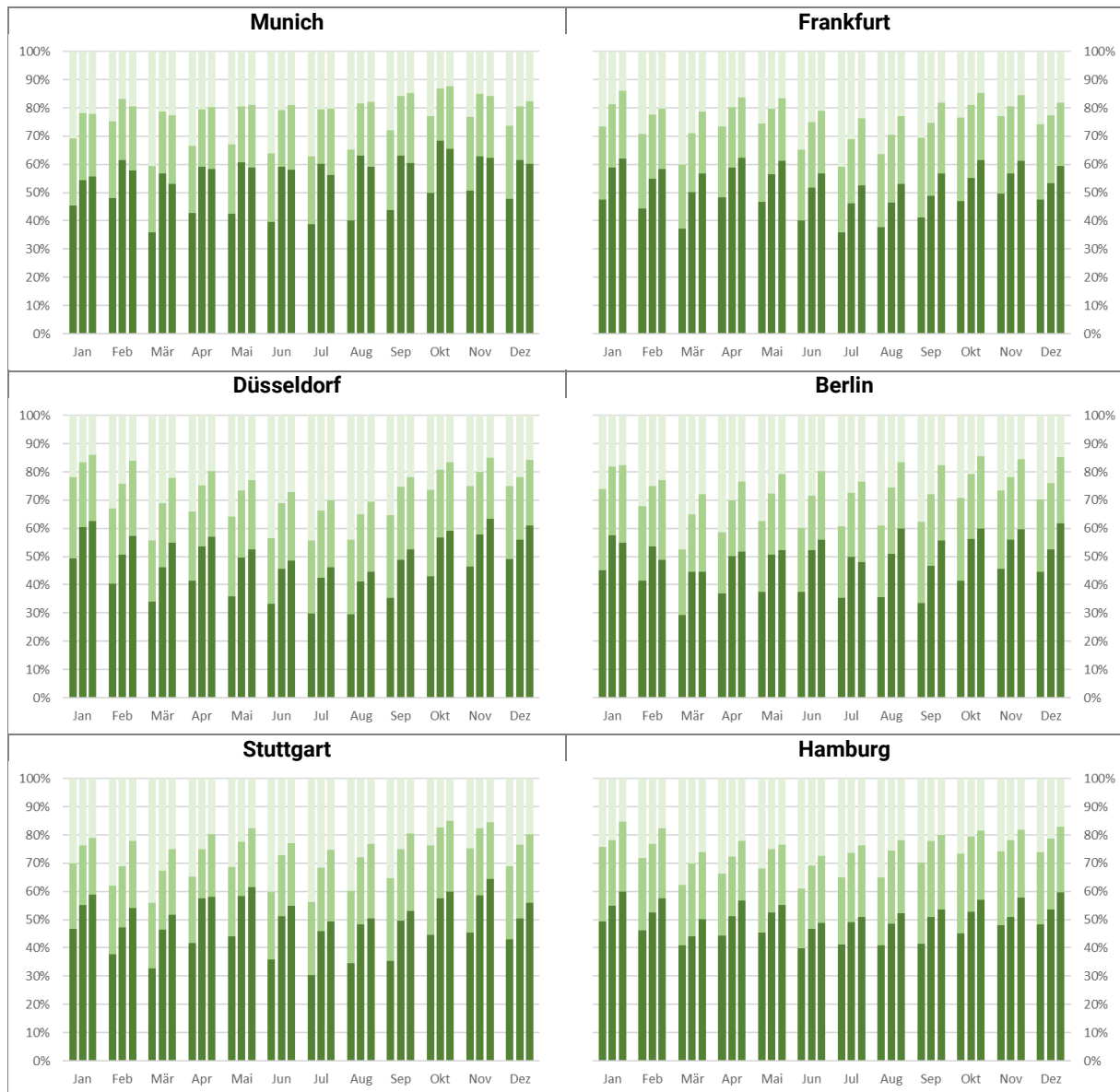


Fig. 3: Share of regulated IFR departures per month where CTOT is a maximum of 5 (dark green), 15 (green) or more than 15 minutes (light green) later than TTOT. First CTOT left, First TSAT Issue centre, AOBT right.

CTOT Deviation

Description

Mean monthly deviation CTOT-TTOT at First CTOT, First TSAT Issue and AOBT, in minutes

Goal

Measure suitability of network CTOT to the local A-CDM process over the progress of a turnaround

Charts

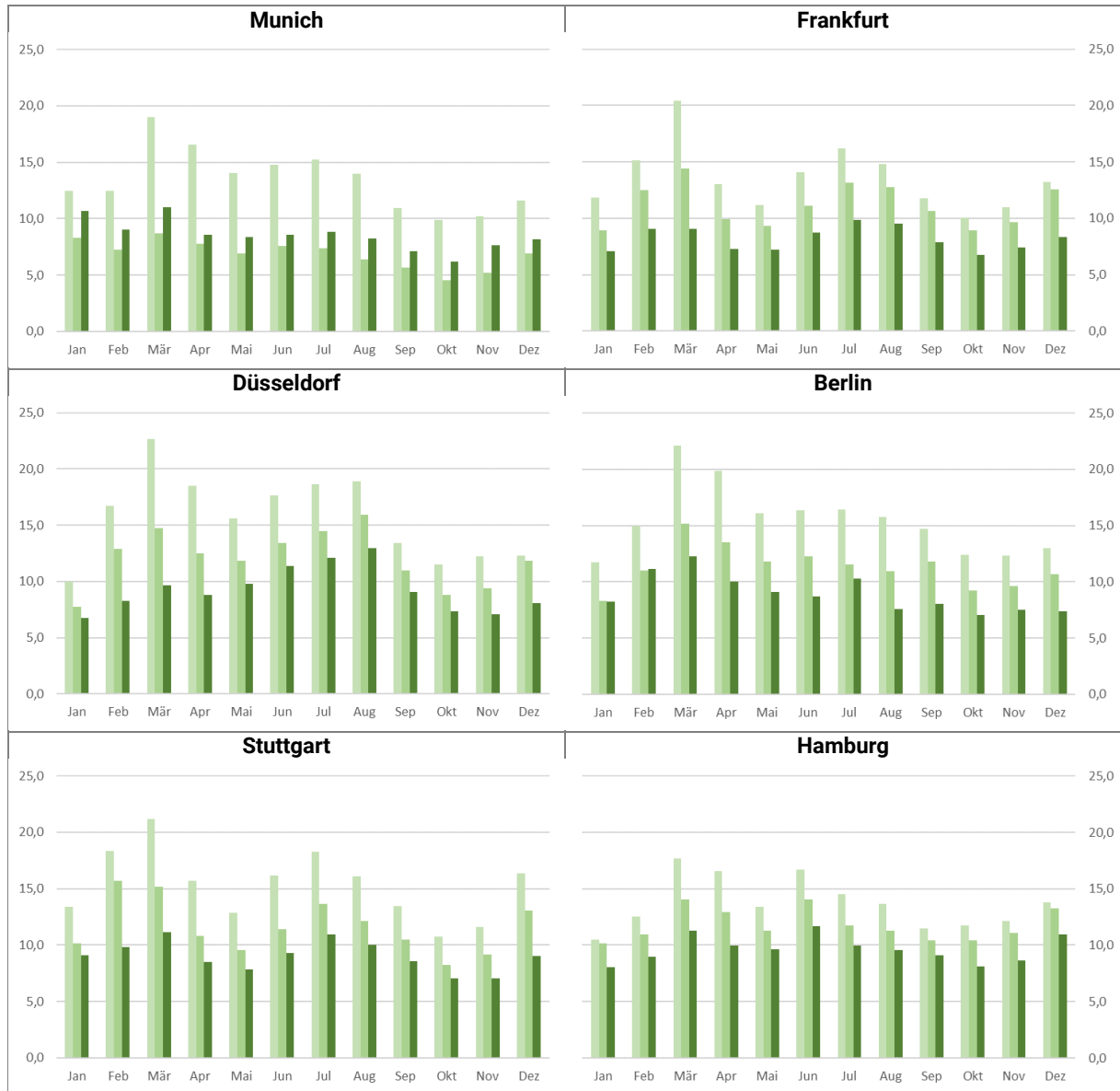


Fig. 4: Mean deviation CTOT-TTOT of regulated IFR departures at First CTOT (light green), First TSAT Issue (green) and AOBT (dark green)

CTOT Stability

Description

Number of CTOT updates per IFR departure with CTOT

Goal

Measure CTOT stability

Charts

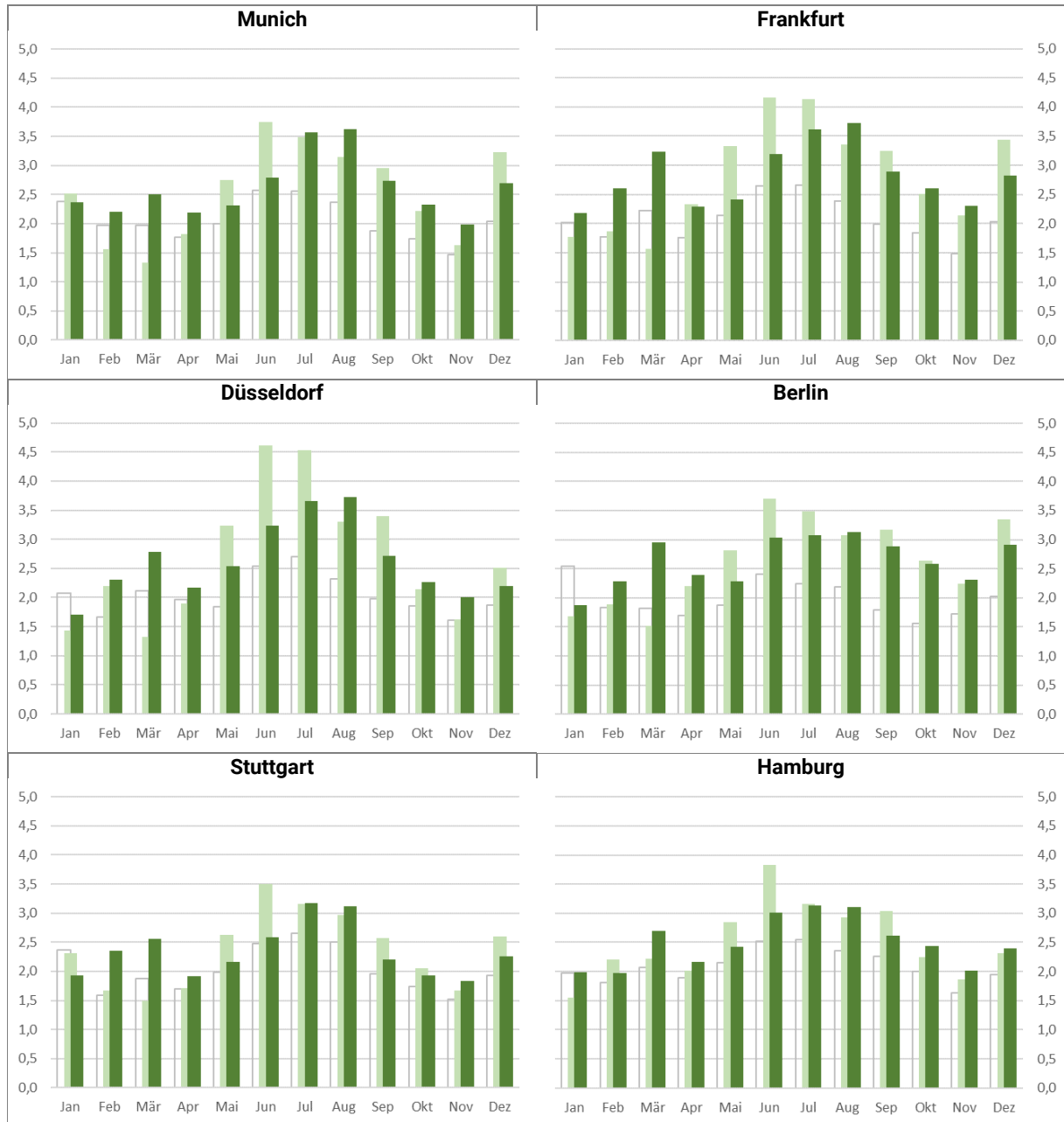


Fig. 5: Mean number of CTOT updates (without first CTOT) per flight and month, compared to previous year (light green) and 2019 (white)

Conclusion

The indicators CTOT Quality and Deviation show how well the network CTOTs fit to the earliest locally possible take-off times. Over the course of the A-CDM process, the assigned CTOTs fit increasingly well to the local times. The first issued CTOTs usually translate into higher delay than later updates as the Network Manager's optimisation algorithm constantly attempts to find earlier CTOTs that fit better to the TOBT-based departure time. Early TOBT updates therefore raise the likelihood of lower ATFM delays.

Munich Airport data shows that CTOT Quality and Deviation indicators are both slightly worse at AOBT compared to First TSAT Issue. This is due to regulated flights being sequenced at the runway at CTOT – 5 minutes rather than at CTOT as on the other airports which makes the TTOT at AOBT artificially earlier in relation to CTOT than at other airports.

CTOT Stability indicates a clear increase in volatility during the summer months both compared to 2019, even if in some months it was slightly lower than during the previous year. Measures reducing volatility by the Network Manager have had some effect there.

Roughly 500 departures from the German Airport-CDM airports received 20 CTOT updates or more which severely hindered planning processes at the airport. This also had knock-on effects on unregulated departures as it became increasingly hard to predict when resources still bound to that aircraft until actual off-block would be available again for other turnarounds.

4.4.3 Average ATFM Delay

Description

Average ATFM delay per regulated departure, in minutes

Goal

Measure the average ATFM delay for regulated departures

Chart

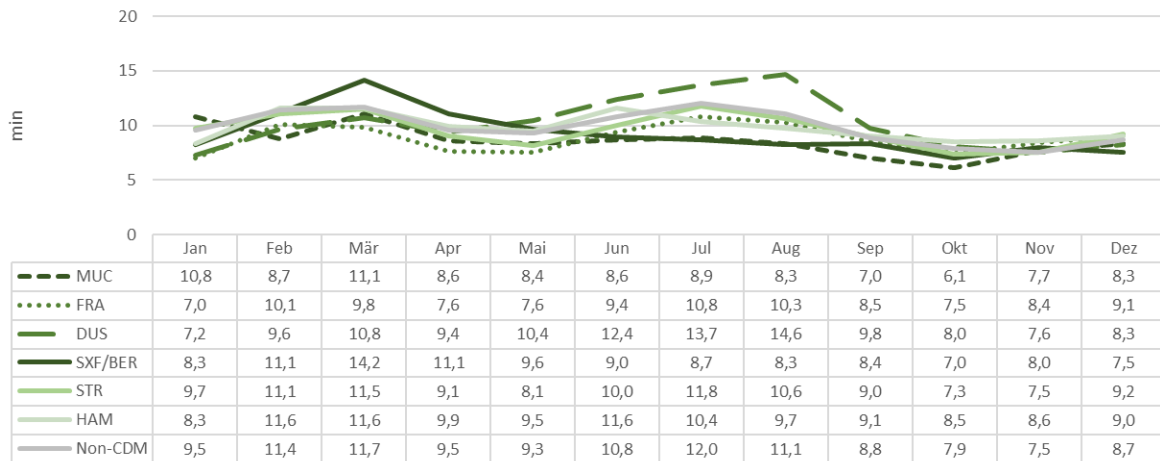


Fig. 6: Average ATFM delay per airport in minutes

Conclusion

There were far fewer regulations during the winter season, so the summer season has greater statistical significance. Apart from Düsseldorf Airport, most German Airport-CDM airports show a lower ATFM delay per flight than non-CDM airports.

5 Outlook

Both the years 2022 and 2023 showed that flight demand and available resources for its turnaround need to be well-balanced in order to reach a high quality of TOBT prognosis. The latter is essential for target time calculations as well as for planning and stability of all related processes and using available resources as efficiently as possible. Some indicators already reflect the effects of measures taken at airports to stabilize processes. However, operational circumstances and process qualities have not yet reached 2019 levels.

The rise of traffic numbers across Europe and the connected increase in network effects in the shape of high numbers of regulations and a further increase in CTOT volatility partly counteracted stabilizing efforts during peak periods at airports. Plannability of the turnaround process and TOBT quality is affected by unpredictability of other flights at the same airport due to shared resources being required.

At some airport, these interdependencies have reduced the positive effect of A-CDM on plannability and stability of airport processes especially during peak traffic, thereby failing to match the levels reached during the most traffic-rich months before the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic.

Local reporting routines and A-CDM process performance monitoring help to recognize these situations and commence targeted projects aimed at improving turnaround predictions, e.g. by increased resource allocation, monitoring of individual aircraft turnarounds and usage of digital technologies to increase transparency. These can enable sufficiently accurate target time predictions in the future.

List of Abbreviations

	DESCRIPTION
ADIT	Actual De-Icing Time
AORT	Actual Off-Block Request Time
ASAT	Actual Start-Up Approval Time
ASRT	Actual Start-Up Request Time
ATC	Air Traffic Control
ATFM	Air Traffic Flow Management
ATM	Air Traffic Management
ATOT	Actual Take-Off Time
CTOT	Calculated Take-Off Time
DCL	Datalink Clearance
EDIT	Estimated De-Icing Time
FPL	ATC Flight Plan
IFR	Instrument Flight Rules
NM	Network Manager
NMOC	Network Manager Operations Centre
SOBT	Scheduled Off-Block Time
STW	Slot Tolerance Window
TOBT	Target Off-Block Time
TSAT	Target Start-Up Approval Time

List of Sources

KAPITEL	KPI	QUELLE
4.1.1	Number of IFR Departures	NM ATFCM Monthly Summary per Airport
	Share A-CDM	DFS
4.1.2	Share of Regulated IFR Departures	NM ATFCM Monthly Summary per Airport
4.1.3	Share of IFR Departures Requiring De-Icing	Airports
4.2.1	ASAT Quality	Airports
4.2.2	AORT Quality	Airports
4.3.1	TTOT Quality	DFS
4.3.2	SOBT Quality	DFS
4.3.3	TOBT Prognosis and Timeliness	DFS
4.3.4	TSAT Quality, Deviation and Stability	DFS
4.3.5	EDIT Quality and Deviation	Airports
4.3.6	Position Stability	Airports
4.4.1	ATFM Slot Adherence and Deviation	NM ATFCM Monthly Slot Adherence, NM
4.4.2	CTOT Quality, Deviation and Stability	DFS
4.4.3	Mean ATFM Delay	NM ATFCM Monthly Summary per Airport