



Runway Utilization Report

Summer Peak Period 2025
Prepared by David Van Quest

The runway utilization report

shows operations filtered by wind speeds under four knots which are considered ‘calm.’ During calm winds, pilots and air traffic controllers (ATC) have more options for runway selection, however calm winds alone do not equate to every runway being available. Each morning, ATC staff look at several factors including: current and forecasted weather conditions, surface winds, winds aloft, Sierra crest weather and scheduled IFR traffic to determine which runway(s) to use. Runway length also plays a factor in a pilot’s decision, and some will choose the longest runway despite the winds based on their aircraft requirements or personal safety margins.

Data tables on the following page show operations by runway and aircraft type in calm winds during the past two summers to track change year to year. The actual

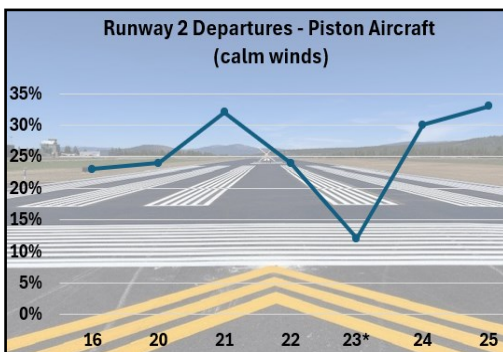
counts are provided in addition to *the percentages* which is the key to analyzing runway utilization. Also for comparison is the relative difference in percentages which shows the change in runway use *percentages*. This is not to be mistaken for a change in actual operation counts which are better analyzed in other Truckee Tahoe Airport publications such as the quarterly Operations & Community Comment Tracking Charts most recently published October 22, 2025.

This past summer saw the highest share of Piston departures off Runway 2 since we started tracking this statistic five years ago. At 33%, this number was just higher than the summer of 2021. We also saw a 5% decrease from last year in departures off Runway 29 where the majority of noise complaints originate. Since jets and turbo-props mostly require Runway

Runway 2 so a significant shift has occurred over time. The effort to move traffic to Runway 2 has included direct outreach to pilots, ATC routinely assigning it for departures, and new artwork that advertises Runway 2 as the “quietest departure.” This art is found in several places around the airport including the 100LL self-serve pump and the full-service fuel truck.



Runway 2 wrap on 100LL fuel truck



Runway 2 in Summer over the years. 2016 was pre-tower and 2023 Runway 2 was closed two months.

11/29, Piston operations are a good measure of how well we’re able to disperse traffic. Previous versions of this report compared data against the summer of 2016 when we did not have an air traffic control tower. That summer saw just 23% of Piston departures off

Moving into winter we will likely see a higher share of departures off Runway 2 than in summer, around 45%. This is due to the traffic conflict that occurs in the summer glider season. With gliders using Runway 20, ATC is often unable to launch traffic off Runway 2 as this creates opposite direction operations, however ATC strives to assign light aircraft Runway 2 for departures when able year-round.

Calm Wind Operations (0-3 knots)

Summer Peak Period 2025

June 15 — Sept. 15

All Aircraft		2024		
Runway	Arrivals	Departures	All	
RWY 11	4%	7%	6%	
RWY 2	3%	20%	12%	
RWY 20	12%	10%	11%	
RWY 29	72%	56%	64%	
Unknown	9%	7%	8%	

Operations: 6,146

		2025		
Arrivals	Departures	All		
4%	6%	5%		
6%	24%	15%		
14%	13%	13%		
70%	52%	60%		
7%	6%	6%		

Operations: 7,807

Change		
Arrivals	Departures	All
0%	-1%	-1%
3%	4%	3%
2%	3%	3%
-3%	-4%	-4%
-2%	-1%	-2%

Operations: 1,661

Jet		2024		
Runway	Arrivals	Departures	All	
RWY 11	6%	2%	4%	
RWY 2	0%	0%	0%	
RWY 20	3%	0%	2%	
RWY 29	89%	97%	93%	
Unknown	1%	1%	1%	

Operations: 1,010

		2025		
Arrivals	Departures	All		
8%	1%	5%		
0%	0%	0%		
3%	0%	2%		
87%	97%	92%		
1%	2%	1%		

Operations: 1,158

Change		
Arrivals	Departures	All
2%	-1%	0%
0%	0%	0%
0%	0%	0%
-2%	0%	-1%
0%	1%	0%

Operations: 148

Turboprop		2024		
Runway	Arrivals	Departures	All	
RWY 11	3%	17%	10%	
RWY 2	0%	4%	2%	
RWY 20	3%	2%	3%	
RWY 29	87%	71%	79%	
Unknown	6%	5%	5%	

Operations: 966

		2025		
Arrivals	Departures	All		
3%	19%	11%		
0%	6%	3%		
3%	3%	3%		
88%	69%	78%		
6%	4%	5%		

Operations: 1,112

Change		
Arrivals	Departures	All
0%	2%	1%
0%	1%	1%
0%	0%	0%
1%	-2%	-1%
0%	-1%	-1%

Operations: 146

Piston		2024		
Runway	Arrivals	Departures	All	
RWY 11	3%	6%	5%	
RWY 2	4%	30%	18%	
RWY 20	17%	14%	16%	
RWY 29	68%	45%	56%	
Unknown	7%	5%	6%	

Operations: 3,842

		2025		
Arrivals	Departures	All		
2%	4%	3%		
8%	33%	22%		
20%	18%	19%		
65%	40%	51%		
5%	4%	5%		

Operations: 5,225

Change		
Arrivals	Departures	All
-1%	-2%	-1%
4%	4%	4%
3%	4%	3%
-4%	-5%	-4%
-2%	-1%	-2%

Operations: 1,383