

Blog Post: The Truth About Air Travel Safety: Setting the Record Straight

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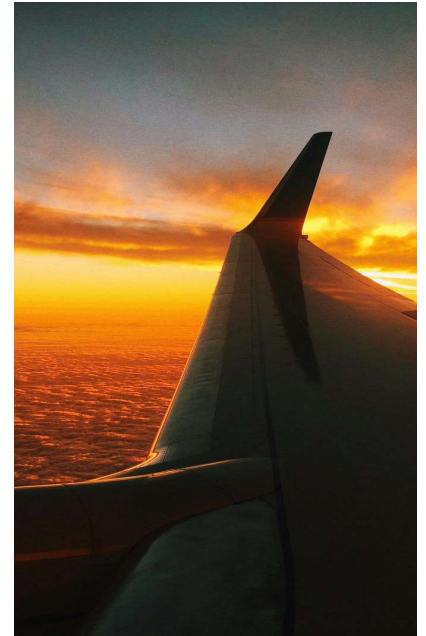
DSC640 – Data Visualization and Presentation

3.3 Project Task

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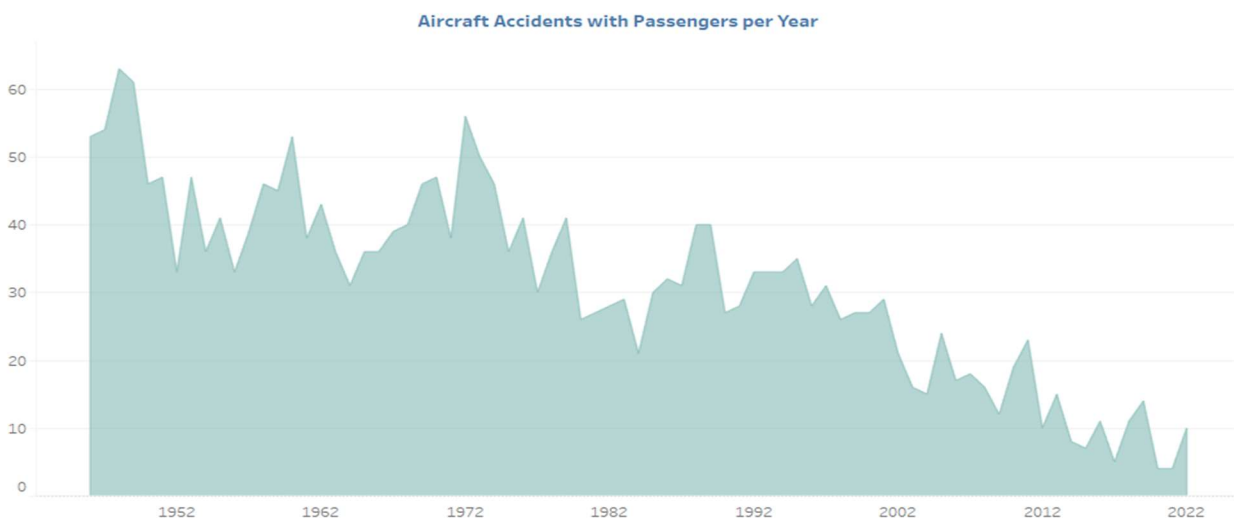
Introduction

In recent times, media reports have cast a shadow over the safety of air travel, causing concern among travelers and financial strain on airlines. Misleading data and sensationalist headlines have contributed to this growing distrust. However, a thorough analysis of historical and recent data reveals a different story—one of significant improvements and a safer air travel experience over the decades. In this blog post, we aim to dispel the myths and present the facts about air travel safety.



The Decline in Aircraft Accidents

One of the most compelling pieces of evidence supporting the safety of air travel is the dramatic decrease in the number of aircraft accidents over the years. An area chart visualization demonstrates this trend clearly. In 1946, there were 53 aircraft accidents, but by 2022, this number had decreased to just 10. This reduction highlights the advancements in aviation technology, improved safety protocols, and stricter regulations that have made flying safer than ever before.



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Reducing Fatalities: A Success Story

Another crucial aspect to consider is the decrease in fatalities from aircraft accidents. Initially presented as a pie chart, we revised this visualization to an area chart to better illustrate the downward trend in fatalities. In 1994, there were 1,342 fatalities due to aircraft crashes, but by 2022, this number had dropped to 214. This significant reduction underscores the effectiveness of safety measures implemented over the years.

Comparing Air Travel to Road Travel

To put air travel safety into perspective, we compared it to road travel. The data shows a stark contrast. In 2021, there were 42,939 fatalities from traffic accidents, compared to only 104 fatalities from aircraft accidents. This comparison underscores the relative safety of air travel when juxtaposed with the risks associated with road travel.

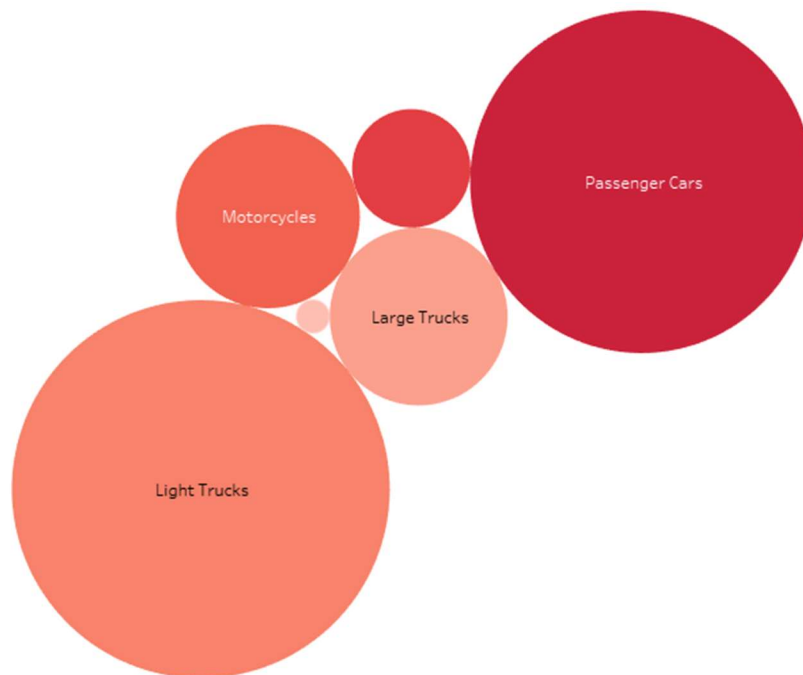
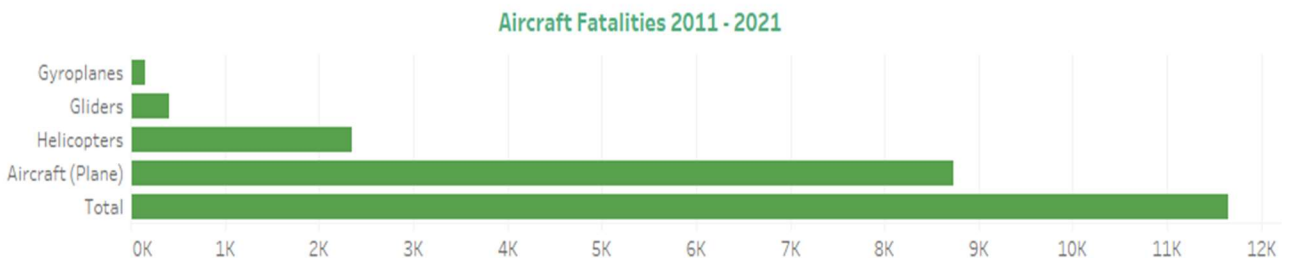


Figure 1. Fatalities from traffic accidents in 2021

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Fatalities by Vehicle Type in 2021

Further breaking down the data, we looked at fatalities by vehicle type in 2021. Light trucks accounted for the highest number of fatalities (25,704), followed by passenger cars (21,118). In contrast, aircraft fatalities were significantly lower. Even buses, which had the lowest fatalities among land vehicles, still recorded nearly double the number of aircraft fatalities.



Global Perspective: Aircraft Crashes by Country

To address concerns about the accuracy of data recording, especially for international flights, we presented data on aircraft crashes by country from 2015 to 2021. This global perspective ensures a comprehensive understanding of aircraft safety. Egypt had the highest fatalities (224) during this period, providing a comparative context for understanding safety across different regions.



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Conclusion

The data unequivocally shows that air travel is safer than ever. The significant reduction in both accidents and fatalities over the years is a testament to the advancements in aviation safety. By presenting this data in a clear and comprehensible manner, we aim to restore public trust in air travel and counter the misleading narratives perpetuated by some media outlets. Air travel remains one of the safest modes of transportation, and these findings should reassure travelers and stakeholders in the aviation industry.

Stay tuned for our upcoming infographic and video clip, which will further elucidate these important facts and help spread the message of safety and trust in air travel.

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References

Accidents and Fatalities per Year:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1SDp7p1y6m7N5xD5_fpOkYOrJvd68V7iy6etXy2cetb8/edit?gid=1448957446#gid=1448957446

Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS), NHTSA:

<https://www-fars.nhtsa.dot.gov/Main/index.aspx>