

# 1.0 Project Title: Risk Assessment for the Operations Of Private and Commercial Aircrafts

**Author:** Patrice Okoiti

## 1.1 Data Understanding

The selected Dataset <https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/khsamaha/aviation-accident-database-synopses> (<https://www.kaggle.com/datasets/khsamaha/aviation-accident-database-synopses>) for this analysis is from the National Transportation Safety Board, available on Kaggle, detailing the civil aviation accidents and selected incidents in the United States and international waters between 1962 and 2023. It details aircraft accidents, including information on accident, aircraft specifications, weather conditions, and injury severity which are relevant to our analysis.

### 1.1.1 column description

Columns	Description
Event Id, Accident Number, Event Date, Location, Country, Latitude, Longitude, Airport Code, Airport Name	Unique identifiers for each accident and its location.
Make, Model, Aircraft Category, Amateur Built, Number of Engines, Engine Type	Details about the aircraft involved in the accident.
Injury Severity, Aircraft Damage, Weather Condition, Broad Phase of Flight	Risk factors contributing to the accident.
FAR Description, Schedule, Purpose of Flight, Air Carrier	Type of operations and flight purpose.
Total Fatal Injuries, Total Serious Injuries, Total Minor Injuries, Total Uninjured	Casualties per accident.

## 1.2 Business Problem

Umoja Logistics is diversifying their portfolio by venturing into the aviation industry. The aim is to purchase and operate aircraft for commercial and private enterprises. However, aviation involves significant safety risks, including accidents and operational hazards. The goal of this project is to analyze historical aircraft accident data to identify low-risk aircraft models

and key risk factors that could impact operations.

### 1.2.1 Objectives

1. Identify the safest type of aircraft
2. Identify risk factors contributing to aircraft accidents
3. Evaluate flight risks based on operations

```
In [3]: # First step is to import the important libraries  
import pandas as pd  
import numpy as np  
import matplotlib.pyplot as plt  
import seaborn as sns  
%matplotlib inline
```

## 1.3 Data Mining

This involves reading and loading our data on to our notebook based on the file format

```
In [7]: # Next step is data loading
df = pd.read_csv('Data/AviationData.csv', encoding='latin-1', low_memory=False)

# Display the first 5 rows of the dataframe
df.head()
```

Out[7]:

	Event.Id	Investigation.Type	Accident.Number	Event.Date	Location	Country	Latitude	Longitude	Airport.C
0	20001218X45444	Accident	SEA87LA080	1948-10-24	MOOSE CREEK, ID	United States	NaN	NaN	
1	20001218X45447	Accident	LAX94LA336	1962-07-19	BRIDGEPORT, CA	United States	NaN	NaN	
2	20061025X01555	Accident	NYC07LA005	1974-08-30	Saltville, VA	United States	36.922223	-81.878056	
3	20001218X45448	Accident	LAX96LA321	1977-06-19	EUREKA, CA	United States	NaN	NaN	
4	20041105X01764	Accident	CHI79FA064	1979-08-02	Canton, OH	United States	NaN	NaN	

5 rows × 31 columns



## 1.4 Data Preparation

This involved inspecting our dataset to identify the shape, name of columns, datatype of each column and any columns with missing values

```
In [30]: # Inspect the dataframe  
df.info()
```

```
<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>  
RangeIndex: 88889 entries, 0 to 88888  
Data columns (total 31 columns):  
#   Column                                Non-Null Count  Dtype    
---  -  
0   Event.Id                             88889 non-null  object   
1   Investigation.Type                   88889 non-null  object   
2   Accident.Number                     88889 non-null  object   
3   Event.Date                          88889 non-null  object   
4   Location                            88837 non-null  object   
5   Country                             88663 non-null  object   
6   Latitude                            34382 non-null  object   
7   Longitude                           34373 non-null  object   
8   Airport.Code                        50249 non-null  object   
9   Airport.Name                        52790 non-null  object   
10  Injury.Severity                     87889 non-null  object   
11  Aircraft.damage                     85695 non-null  object   
12  Aircraft.Category                   32287 non-null  object   
13  Registration.Number                 87572 non-null  object   
14  .....
```

```
In [9]: # Get summary statistics of the data  
df.describe()
```

Out[9]:

	Number.of.Engines	Total.Fatal.Injuries	Total.Serious.Injuries	Total.Minor.Injuries	Total.Uninjured
<b>count</b>	82805.000000	77488.000000	76379.000000	76956.000000	82977.000000
<b>mean</b>	1.146585	0.647855	0.279881	0.357061	5.325440
<b>std</b>	0.446510	5.485960	1.544084	2.235625	27.913634
<b>min</b>	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
<b>25%</b>	1.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000
<b>50%</b>	1.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	1.000000
<b>75%</b>	1.000000	0.000000	0.000000	0.000000	2.000000
<b>max</b>	8.000000	349.000000	161.000000	380.000000	699.000000

From the above information, we can deduce that our dataframe has a shape of 88889 rows and 31 columns. The dataframe has 5 numerical columns and 26 categorical column. All the 5 numerical columns have float datatype. Of the 31 columns only the first 4 have complete entries, meaning 27 columns have missing values

The above information is a statistical summary of the numerical column of the dataframe

## 1.5 Data Preparation

This step involved validation of the dataset. This involved identifying and handling missing values and duplicates so as to get a clean dataset

```
In [10]: # First Step is to create a copy of the original dataset  
df_copy = df.copy() # Henceforth we will use the copy to clean our dataset  
  
# Identify duplicates from the created copy of dataset  
df_copy.duplicated().value_counts()
```

```
Out[10]: False      88889  
dtype: int64
```

From the above output we can deduce that our dataset does not contain any duplicates

```
In [11]: # Next we display a breakdown of missing values in our dataset
df_copy.isna().sum()
```

```
Out[11]: Event.Id                0
Investigation.Type              0
Accident.Number                0
Event.Date                     0
Location                       52
Country                        226
Latitude                       54507
Longitude                      54516
Airport.Code                   38640
Airport.Name                   36099
Injury.Severity                1000
Aircraft.damage                3194
Aircraft.Category              56602
Registration.Number            1317
Make                           63
Model                          92
Amateur.Built                  102
Number.of.Engines              6084
Engine.Type                    7077
FAR.Description                56866
Schedule                       76307
Purpose.of.flight              6192
Air.carrier                    72241
Total.Fatal.Injuries           11401
Total.Serious.Injuries         12510
Total.Minor.Injuries           11933
Total.Uninjured                5912
Weather.Condition              4492
Broad.phase.of.flight          27165
Report.Status                  6381
Publication.Date               13771
dtype: int64
```

```
In [12]: # Next we replace our missing values
for col in df_copy.columns:
    if str(df_copy[col].dtype) == 'object':
        df_copy[col].fillna('Unknown', inplace=True)
    else:
        df_copy[col].fillna(0, inplace=True)
df_copy.info()
```



```

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>
RangeIndex: 88889 entries, 0 to 88888
Data columns (total 31 columns):
#   Column                                Non-Null Count  Dtype
---  -
0   Event.Id                             88889 non-null  object
1   Investigation.Type                    88889 non-null  object
2   Accident.Number                      88889 non-null  object
3   Event.Date                           88889 non-null  object
4   Location                             88889 non-null  object
5   Country                             88889 non-null  object
6   Latitude                             88889 non-null  object
7   Longitude                            88889 non-null  object
8   Airport.Code                         88889 non-null  object
9   Airport.Name                         88889 non-null  object
10  Injury.Severity                      88889 non-null  object
11  Aircraft.damage                      88889 non-null  object
12  Aircraft.Category                    88889 non-null  object
13  Registration.Number                  88889 non-null  object
14  Make                                88889 non-null  object
15  Model                               88889 non-null  object
16  Amateur.Built                       88889 non-null  object
17  Number.of.Engines                   88889 non-null  float64
18  Engine.Type                         88889 non-null  object
19  FAR.Description                     88889 non-null  object
20  Schedule                            88889 non-null  object
21  Purpose.of.flight                   88889 non-null  object
22  Air.carrier                         88889 non-null  object
23  Total.Fatal.Injuries                 88889 non-null  float64
24  Total.Serious.Injuries               88889 non-null  float64
25  Total.Minor.Injuries                 88889 non-null  float64
26  Total.Uninjured                     88889 non-null  float64
27  Weather.Condition                   88889 non-null  object
28  Broad.phase.of.flight                88889 non-null  object
29  Report.Status                       88889 non-null  object
30  Publication.Date                     88889 non-null  object
dtypes: float64(5), object(26)
memory usage: 21.0+ MB

```

The above output involved creating a 'for' loop that iterates through our dataset columns and fill the missing values with the set values based on the datatype. Replacing the missing values helps avoid unexpected errors and completeness of the dataset for analysis. Filling of the missing values in categorical column with placeholder 'Unknown' and numerical column with zero allows me to maintain consistency of dataset without dropping valuable records, hence avoiding bias.

```
In [15]: # Convert our date column to datetime
df_copy['Event.Date'] = pd.to_datetime(df_copy['Event.Date'])

# Create a year column on our dataset
df_copy['Year'] = df_copy['Event.Date'].dt.year.astype(int)

# Filter for the 21st century only
df_copy = df_copy[df_copy['Year'] >= 2000]
```

The above code filters out the discontinued and outdated aircrafts and leaves us with only aircrafts active in the 21st century

```
In [16]: # Identify the unique operational purpose of each flight
df_copy['Purpose.of.flight'].unique()
```

```
Out[16]: array(['Positioning', 'Personal', 'Instructional', 'Unknown',
               'Aerial Observation', 'Ferry', 'Public Aircraft', 'Business',
               'Aerial Application', 'Executive/corporate', 'Other Work Use',
               'Flight Test', 'Skydiving', 'Air Race/show', 'Air Drop',
               'Public Aircraft - Federal', 'Glider Tow',
               'Public Aircraft - Local', 'External Load',
               'Public Aircraft - State', 'Banner Tow', 'Firefighting',
               'Air Race show', 'PUBS', 'ASHO', 'PUBL'], dtype=object)
```

```
In [17]: # Create a list of private and commercial purposes
private = ["Personal", "Executive/corporate", "Business", "Ferry"]
commercial = ["Aerial Application", "Aerial Observation", "Air Carrier", "Public Aircraft"]

# Create a column that describes operations category
flight_purpose = []

for purpose in df_copy['Purpose.of.flight']:
    if purpose in private:
        flight_purpose.append('Private')
    elif purpose in commercial:
        flight_purpose.append('Commercial')
    else:
        flight_purpose.append('Other')

df_copy['Category of Operation'] = flight_purpose

# Filter our dataset to include only private and commercial used planes
df_clean = df_copy.loc[(df_copy['Category of Operation'] == 'Private') |
                       (df_copy['Category of Operation'] == 'Commercial')]
df_clean = df_clean.copy() # Handles error of working with sliced dataframe rather than a dataframe
df_clean.head()
```

Out[17]:

	Event.Id	Investigation.Type	Accident.Number	Event.Date	Location	Country	Latitude	Longitude	Airpoi
47676	20001212X20327	Accident	ATL00FA019	2000-01-01	MONTEAGLE, TN	United States	Unknown	Unknown	Ui
47677	20001212X20383	Accident	LAX00LA063	2000-01-02	VICTORVILLE, CA	United States	Unknown	Unknown	Ui
47679	20001212X20364	Accident	FTW00LA067	2000-01-02	CORNING, AR	United States	Unknown	Unknown	Ui
47680	20001212X20358	Accident	FTW00LA057	2000-01-02	ODESSA, TX	United States	Unknown	Unknown	Ui
47681	20001212X20344	Accident	DEN00FA037	2000-01-02	TELLURIDE, CO	United States	Unknown	Unknown	Ui

5 rows × 33 columns



The above code filters out all aircrafts that are were not utilized for private and commercial flight use

```
In [18]: # Format the text of categorical columns for consistency
df_clean['Weather.Condition'] = df_clean['Weather.Condition'].str.title()

# Edit the initials of weather to the full names
df_clean['Weather.Condition'] = df_clean['Weather.Condition'].apply(
    lambda x: 'Visual Meteorological Conditions'
    if x == 'Vmc'
    else 'Instrument Meteorological Conditions'
    if x == 'Imc'
    else "Unknown"
    if x == 'Unk'
    else x)

# Format the text of categorical columns for consistency
df_clean['Make'] = df_clean['Make'].str.title()
df_clean['Model'] = df_clean['Model'].str.upper()

# Create a new column that combines make and model
df_clean['Make_and_Model'] = df_clean['Make'] + ' ' + df_clean['Model']
```

The above code edits the texts of the relevant columns to ensure consistency since python is case sensitive

## 1.6 Data Evaluation

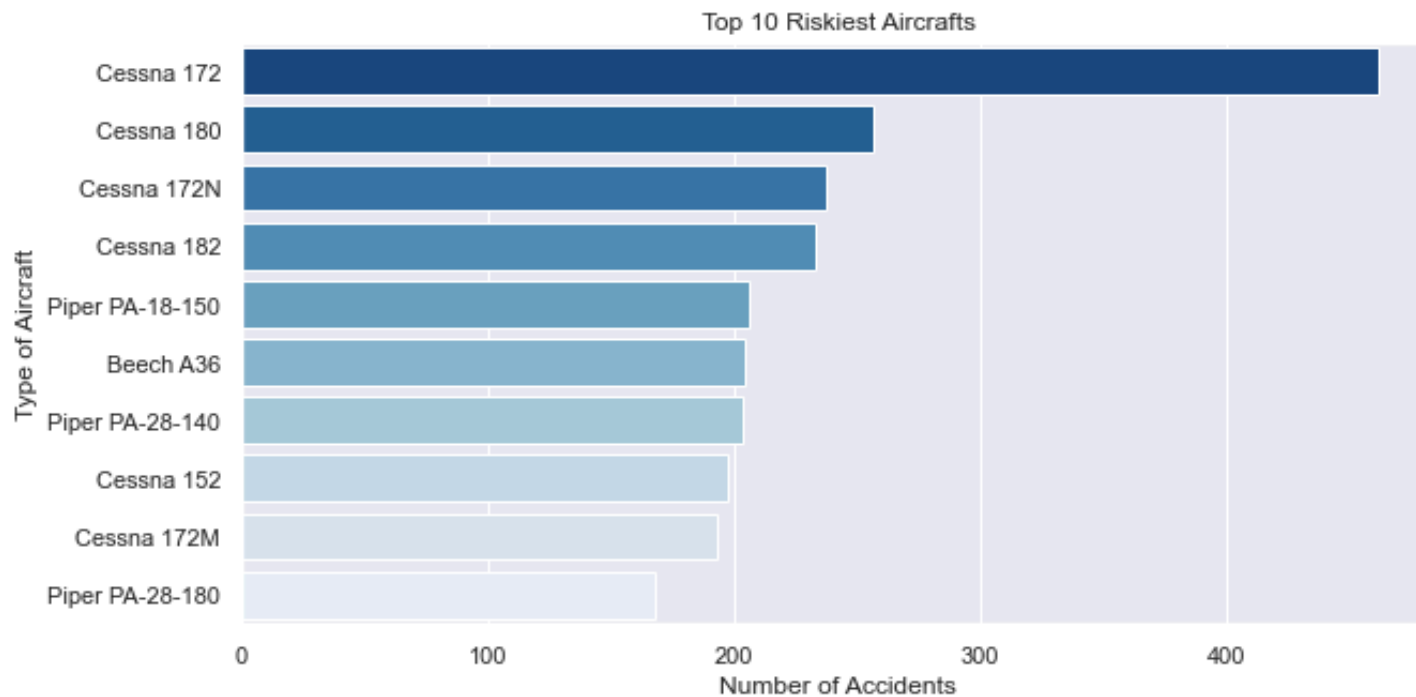
### 1.6.1 Objective 1

The first objective is to identify safest aircraft. This involves analyzing the number of accidents based on aircraft 'Make' and 'Model' to determine the aircraft with the lowest risk of accidents

```
In [22]: # Identify the risky aircrafts based on highest number of accidents
riskiest_aircraft = df_clean['Make_and_Model'].value_counts().head(10)

# Create a horizontal bar graph visualisation
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,5))
sns.set_theme(style='darkgrid')
sns.barplot(y=riskiest_aircraft.index, x=riskiest_aircraft.values, palette='Blues_r')
ax.set(title='Top 10 Riskiest Aircrafts',
       xlabel='Number of Accidents',
       ylabel='Type of Aircraft')

#save the visualization and ensure full image displayed
plt.savefig('Images/Risky-aircrafts.jpg', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
```

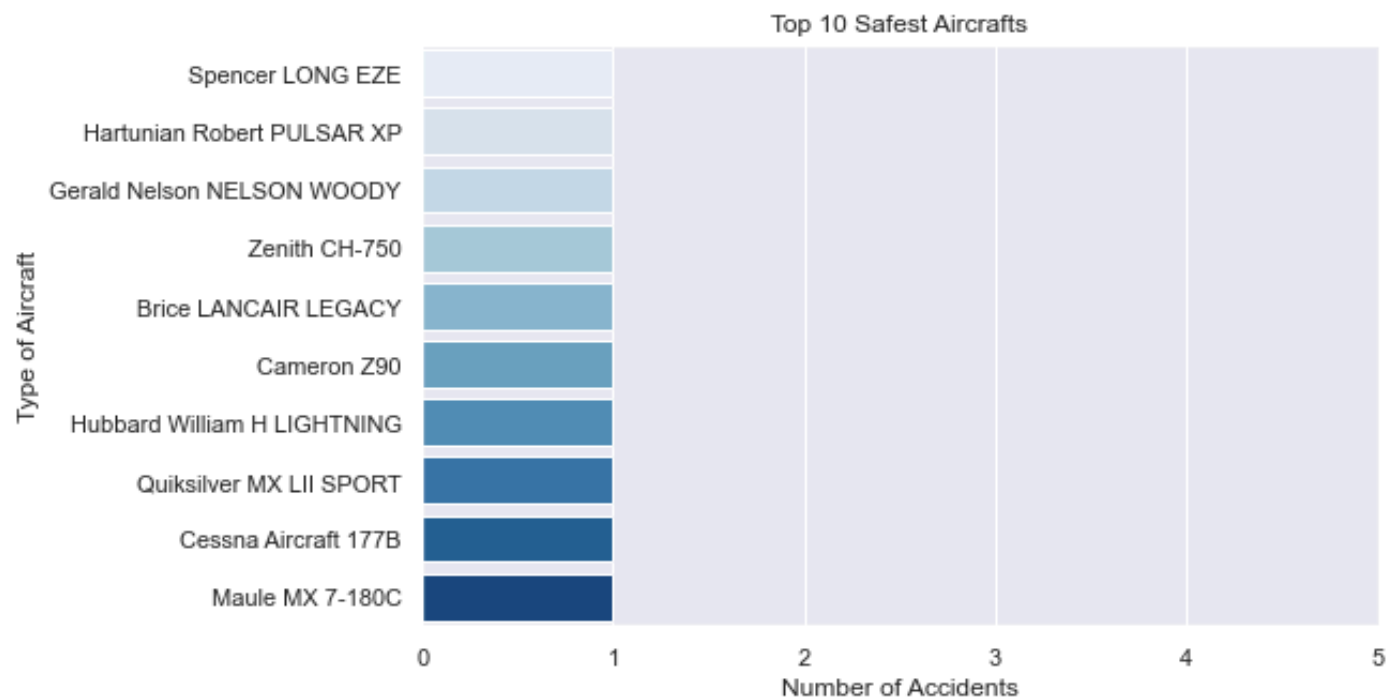


The plot shows the the top 10 riskiest aircrafts based on the most accidents between 2000 and 2023.

```
In [23]: # Identify safest aircrafts based on the lowest number of accidents
safest_aircraft= df_clean['Make_and_Model'].value_counts().tail(10)

# Visualize the safest aircrafts
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(8,5))
sns.set_theme(style='darkgrid')
sns.barplot(y=safest_aircraft.index, x=safest_aircraft.values, palette='Blues')
ax.set(title='Top 10 Safest Aircrafts',
       xlabel='Number of Accidents',
       ylabel='Type of Aircraft',
       xlim=(0, 5))

#save the image and ensure full image displayed
fig.savefig('Images/Safest-aircrafts.jpg', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
```



The above output shows the safest aircraft based on the number of accidents encountered between 2000 and 2023. Note that the aircrafts will keep on changing since there is a large number of aircrafts with one accident only

## 1.6.2 Objective 2

The second objective involves identifying the risk factors contributing to accidents by analyzing the Weather conditions and the broad phase of the aircraft, for example landing or taking off, during the accident



```
In [24]: # Number of accidents per aircraft per year
yearly_accidents = df_clean.groupby('Year')['Make_and_Model'].count()
yearly_accidents

# visualize number of accidents over the years for the past 23years
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,5))
sns.set_theme(style='darkgrid')
sns.lineplot(x=yearly_accidents.index, y=yearly_accidents.values, marker='o')
ax.set(title="Aircraft Accident Trend Overtime",
       xlabel='Years',
       ylabel='Number of Accidents',
       ylim=(500,2000))

# save the image and ensure image fully displayed
plt.savefig('Images/Accident-trend.jpg', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
```

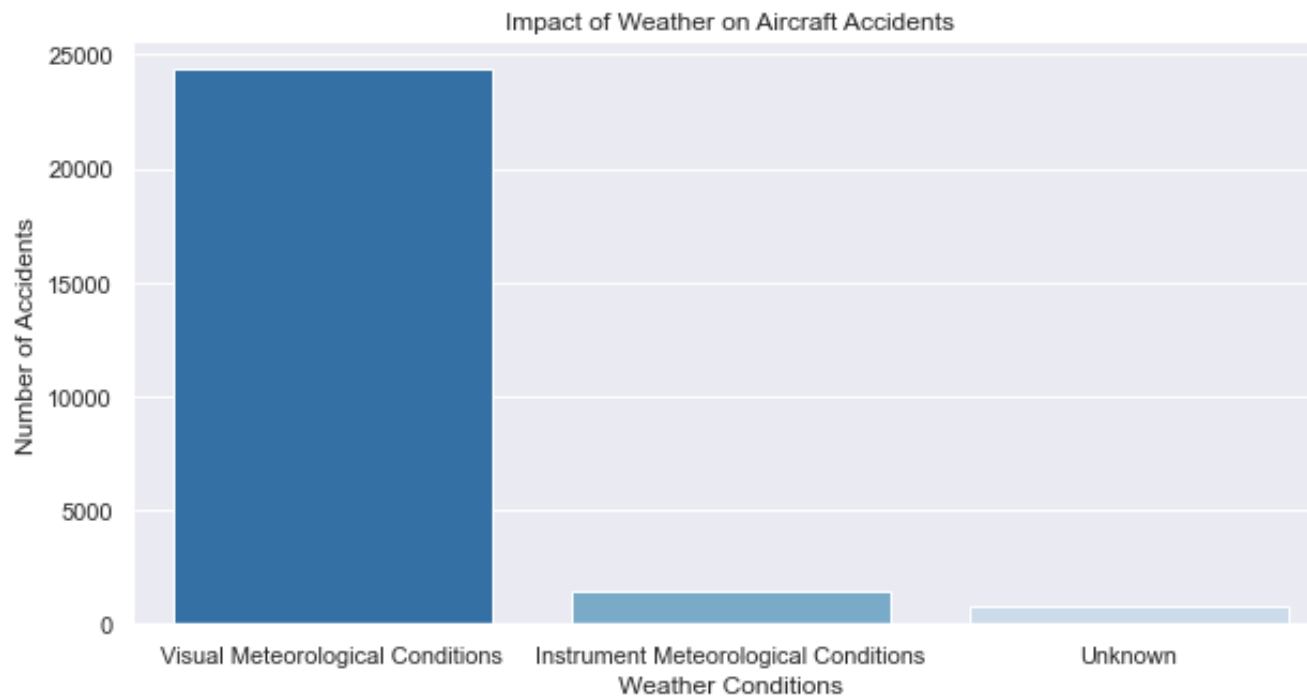


From the above output it can be seen that the overall accidents risk associated with the aircrafts is at a steady decline over the years

```
In [25]: # Weather as risk factor in aircraft accidents
weather_risk = df_clean['Weather.Condition'].value_counts()

# Visualize weather as a risk factor
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,5))
sns.set_theme(style='darkgrid')
sns.barplot(y=weather_risk.values, x=weather_risk.index, palette='Blues_r')
ax.set(title='Impact of Weather on Aircraft Accidents',
       ylabel= 'Number of Accidents',
       xlabel = 'Weather Conditions')

#save the image and ensure image fully dispalyed
plt.savefig('Images/Weather-impact.jpg', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
```

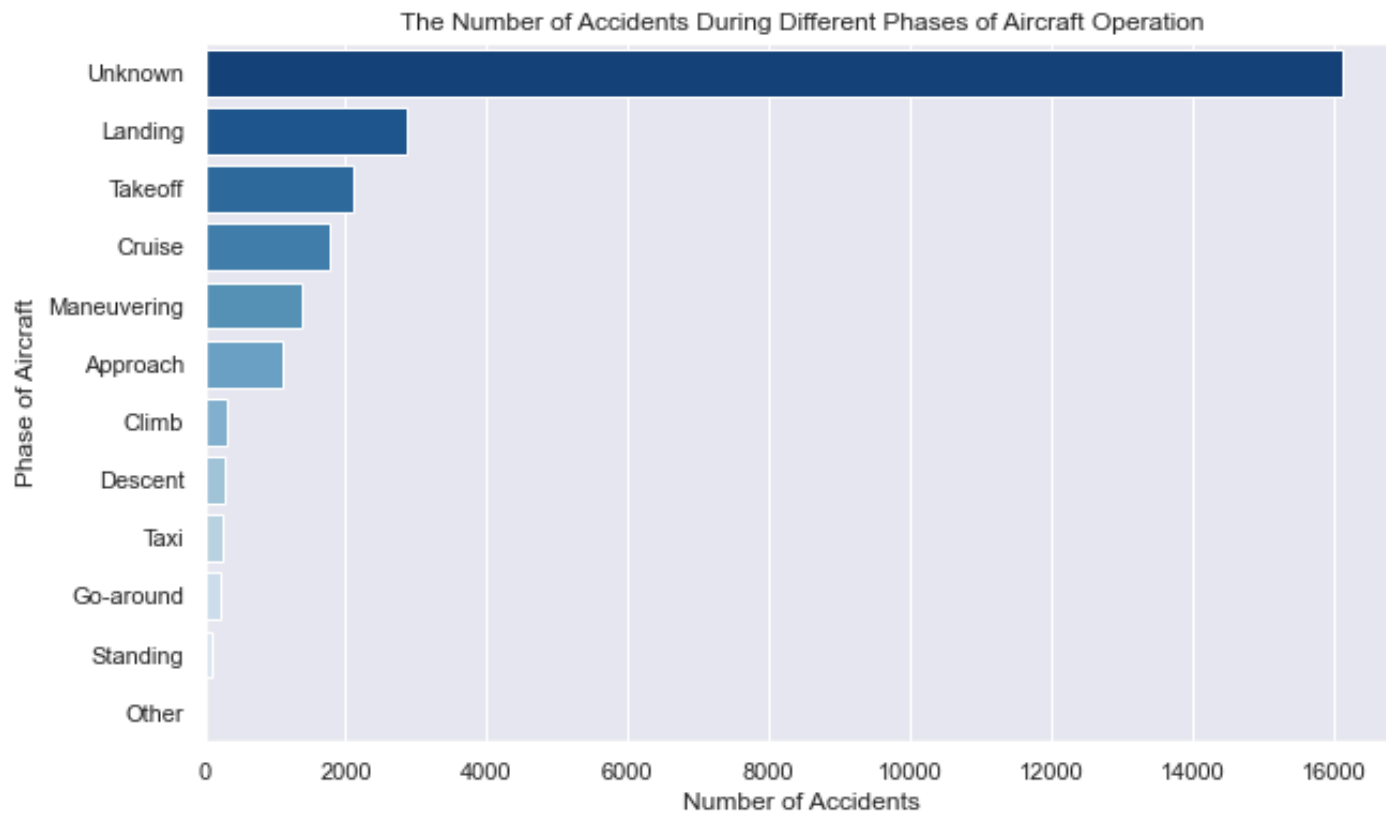


From above output it can be seen that most accidents happened during Visual Meteorological Conditions, meaning that they happened when the weather conditions allowed the pilots to fly with visual references to the ground and other aircrafts without solely relying on instruments. This rules out weather conditions as primary cause of aircraft accidents

```
In [26]: # Identify the phase the aircraft when most accident occur
aircraft_phase = df_clean['Broad.phase.of.flight'].value_counts()

#Visualize every phase by accidents
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,6))
sns.set_theme(style='darkgrid')
sns.barplot(y=aircraft_phase.index, x=aircraft_phase.values, palette='Blues_r')
ax.set(title='The Number of Accidents During Different Phases of Aircraft Operation',
       ylabel= 'Phase of Aircraft',
       xlabel = 'Number of Accidents')

#save the image and ensure image fully displayed
plt.savefig('Images/Flight-phase.jpg', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
```



From the above output it can be clearly seen that phase of accidents for most of accidents remain clearly unknown. But We can also clearly deduce that a significant number of accidents happened during landing, taking off and during cruising, hence we should view these 3 phases as major risk factors associated with aircraft accidents.

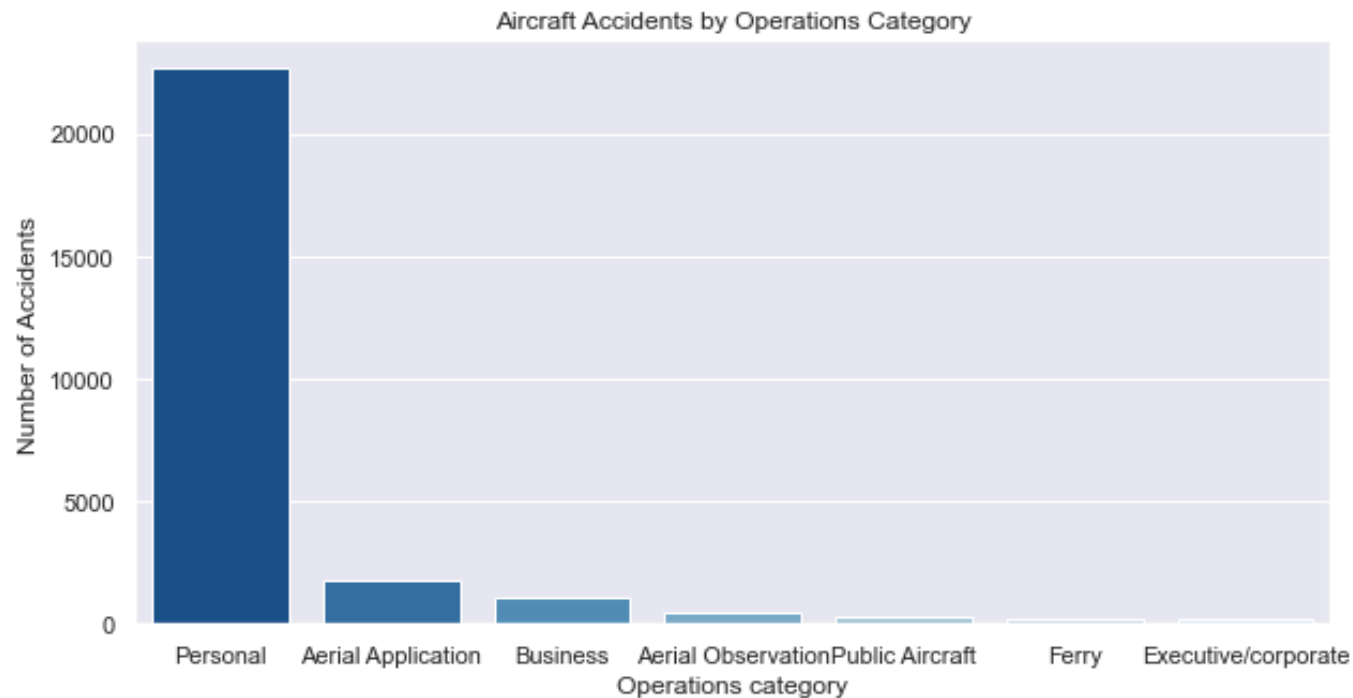
### **1.6.3 Objective 3**

The final objective is to evaluate operational risk factors of the aircraft. This involves analysing the number of accidents as per operations category of aircraft, that is, private and commercial.

```
In [27]: # Evaluate operational risk
operational_category = df_clean['Purpose.of.flight'].value_counts()

# Visualize opeartional risk
fig, ax = plt.subplots(figsize=(10,5))
sns.set_theme(style='darkgrid')
sns.barplot(x=operational_category.index, y=operational_category.values, palette='Blues_r')
ax.set(title='Aircraft Accidents by Operations Category',
       xlabel='Operations category',
       ylabel='Number of Accidents')

#save the image and ensure image fully displayed
plt.savefig('Images/Operations-risk.jpg', dpi=300, bbox_inches='tight')
```



The above output clearly shows that venturing into private flights is riskier compared to commercial flight due to the number of accidents by private flights

```
In [28]: # Next we save our cleaned data which will be useful during creation Dashboard  
df_clean.to_csv('Data/CleanAviationData.csv')
```

## 1.7 Conclusion

From the analysis of the Aviation Data it be can concluded that:

- The aircrafts with the high number of accidents may be due to high levels of usage
- Adverse weather conditions is a significant risk factor in aircraft accidents but it has not been the primary risk factor in the 21st Century.
- The phase the aircraft is in when accidents occur remains majorly unknown, but a significant number of accidents often occur during landing, taking off and cruising making them significant risk factors.
- Prioritizing operations of commercial flights is more viable as compared to private flights due to the high number of accidents encountered by private flights