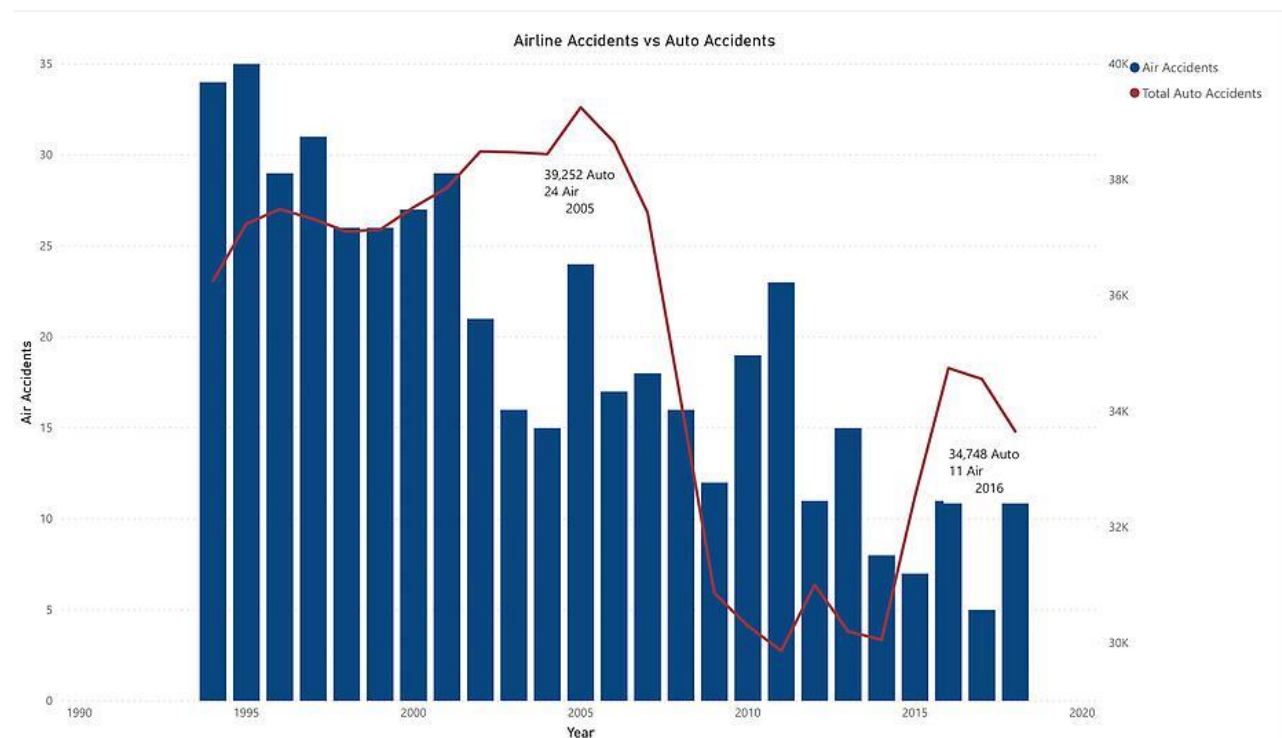


Airline Vs. Automobile: The safer way to travel and why?

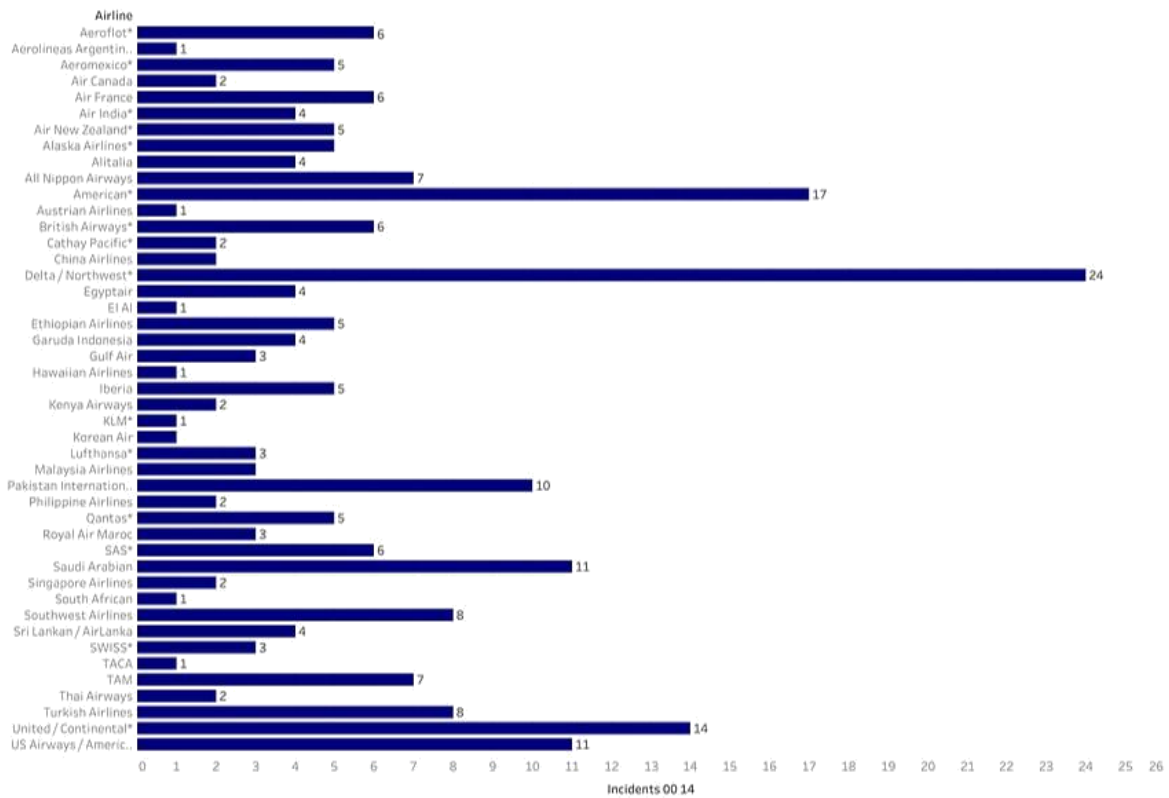
July 12, 2020

As consumers who are constantly on the go, we are looking for the fastest but safest way to get from point A to point B. When going long distances, most will look to traveling by air as the best option. The travel industry has been stating that traveling by air is no longer a safe way to travel. Is this true? Let's look at the data to see a comparison with air travel and automobile travel over the years.



Looking at the above figure, Auto accidents each year range in the thousands with airline accidents coming in below 36 at the highest point. When auto accidents had a spike in 2005 and again in 2016, we saw 24 and 11 for airline accidents in comparison to the 39,252 and 34,748 for auto accidents. When you get into a car to travel, there is a 1 in 114 chance of having a fatal accident, on an airplane, there is a 1 in 9,821 per the National Safety Council.

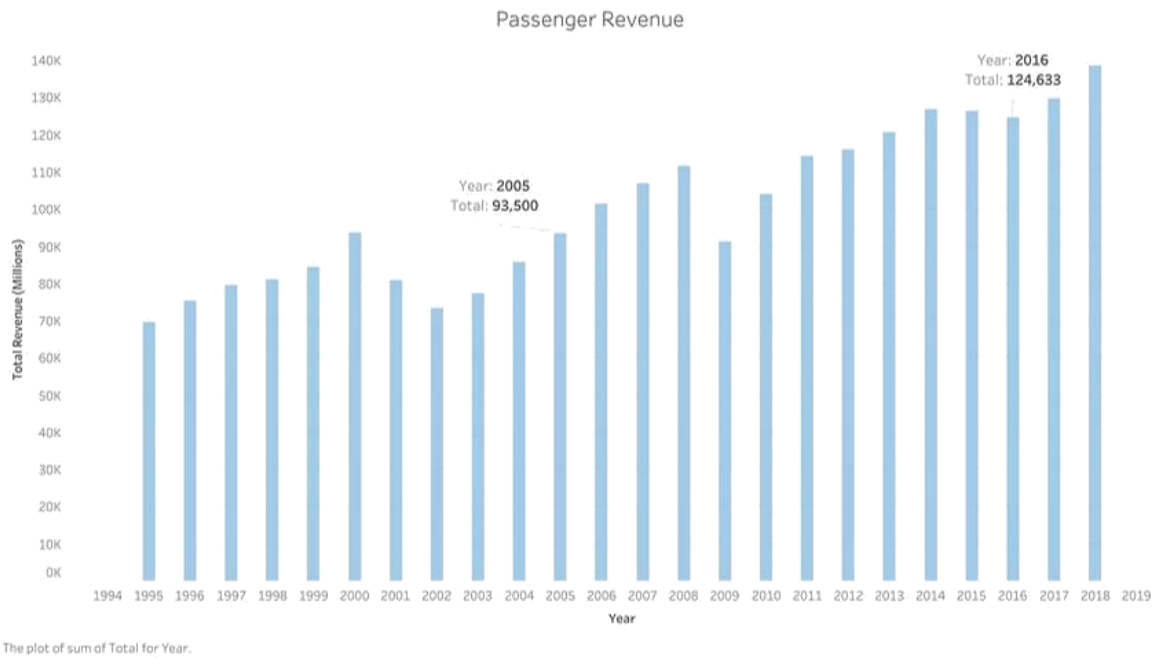
Incidents 2000-2014



Sum of Incidents 00 14 for each Airline. The view is filtered on Airline, which keeps 47 of 56 members.

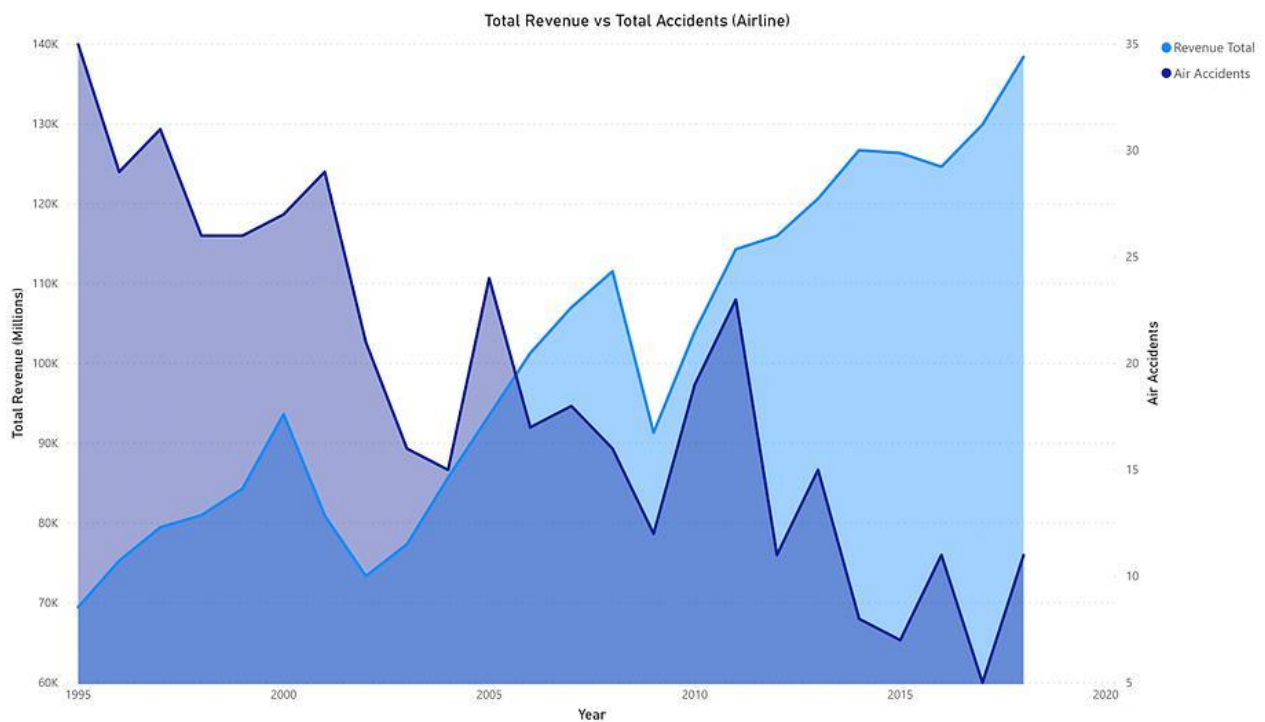
As we break it down to airlines specifically from 2000-2014, we can see that each airline is different when we compare the number of incidents. Delta/Northwest is shown with the highest number, with 24 incidents.

With the information from the media that has been put out there, one would believe that airline revenue would have dropped over the years if consumers believed it was no longer safe to travel via air. Let's look at the graph shown below:



Based on this image, it can be determined that the revenue each year, specifically in 2005 and 2016 has continued to climb despite any incidents that have occurred.

Another look at the comparison from incidents and revenue is seen here:



The revenue total is shown in light blue and has continued to rise over the years, the air accidents have declined. While the accident numbers have the occasional spike, the total revenue has continued to increase leading us to know that airline travel is still being pursued.

Over the years, the Federal Aviation Administration has also implemented new rules for pilots and airplanes around safety. New technology is also used to allow for routes to be better planned around weather. All the new regulations, for example, the hour limits for pilots and flight training, are a part of continuous improvements to ensure the safety of airline travel.

Looking over the data and the comparison with automobiles, air travel is a safe way to travel. There are many more automobile accidents happening in one day and there is has not been any more training or regulations put in place to assist with lowering the numbers. As we have seen, the regulations made by the Federal Aviation Administration have assisted with lowering the incident rates of the years for air travel safety.

When traveling in the air, there is a trained pilot and a crew whom have everyone's safety in mind. This includes the pre-check crew that ensures the plane is ready to go and passes the requirements. Based on the statistics outlined above as well as the amount of work that goes into inspections and training, airline travel has been and still is, a safe way to travel.

The data included has been compiled from different sources including the MIT Airline Data Project, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Data World, Fortune, and the Aviation Safety Network.

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GitHub:

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