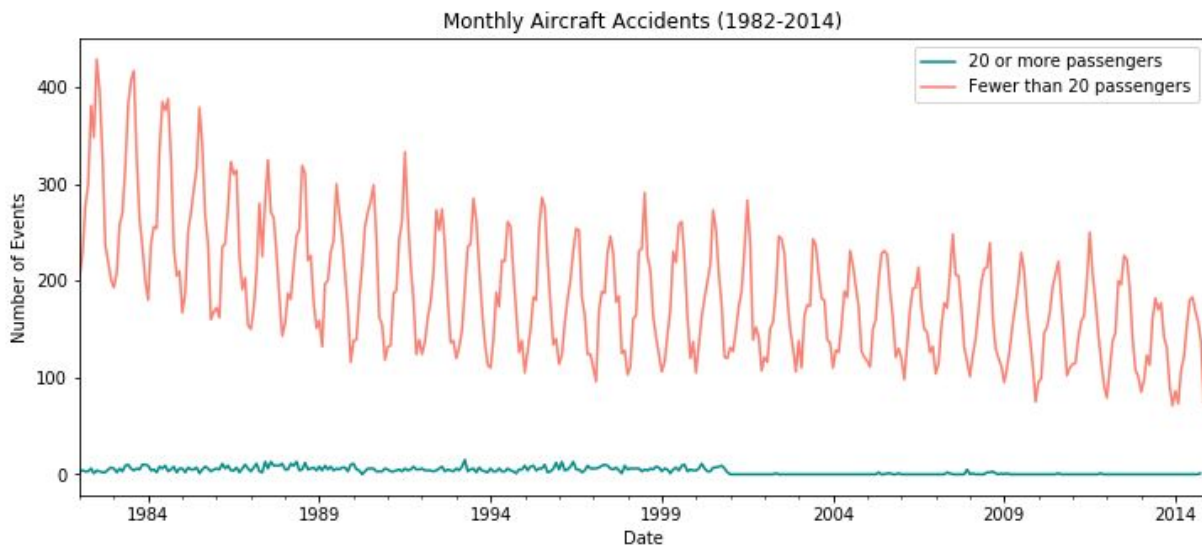


NTSB Exploratory Analysis

Seasonality and downward trend in aircraft accidents over time

Aircraft events investigated by the NTSB are trending downward, with 5.3 fewer accidents per year on average from 1982 to 2015. Over 98% of accidents involve aircraft carrying fewer than 20 passengers - the most common make and model reported was a Cessna 152. This indicates that most incidents involve amateur aviators, and that commercial flight is very safe given the high volume of air traffic daily.



An annual pattern exists in aircraft accidents, with the number of events peaking in June - August. On average, one would expect there to be 150 more reported events in the peak of summer than in winter. While the reasoning for this relationship is unclear, the periodic pattern encompasses a substantial portion of accidents over time.

Text patterns in reported probable cause of accidents

Word choice in NTSB narratives has changed over time - most notably the replacement of "airplane" with the word "aircraft". Among aircraft with more than 20 passengers, terms like "inadequate", "personnel", and "turbulence" appear when modeling textual patterns on the probable cause of an incident. These patterns may indicate weather and human error play a component for larger aircraft accidents. Across all aircraft, the odds of a fatal accident were 8.21 times greater during instrumental meteorological conditions than during visual conditions or when the weather was unknown. Aircraft with fewer than 20 passengers see a greater emphasis on terms like "control", "power", and "terrain". Comparatively, this may indicate aircraft operation plays a more substantive role in smaller incidents.