Aviation Accidents Statistics
5 year accidents statistics (2005 – 2009)

Bongi Motlokwa
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Where are we in terms of aviation safety?

**South African Aviation Accidents Statistics**

2005 - 2009

Accident figures for the past 5 years

**Analysis**

**Accidents**

The statistics shows a general decline in accidents. In fact, 2009 has been the best year compared to the past 5 years, 2008 being the worst year with a total of 190 reported accidents. The decline in the aircraft accidents can be attributed to various factors.

Fatal Accidents for the past 5 years
Again we see a huge decline in fatal accidents in 2009. 2008 has been the worst year, with October accounting for 7 fatal accidents. November and December 2009 have been the worst months for fatal accidents, each month accounting for 3 accidents.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Fatalities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2005</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2006</td>
<td>47</td>
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<tr>
<td>2007</td>
<td>38</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>28</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Fatalities for the past 5 years**

It is clear that 2008 was the worst year in terms of accidents. 2008 accounted for 94 fatalities, September and October being the worst months. It is a relief to see that 2009 has been the best year in the past 5 years. We only had 28 fatalities (3 occurred outside SA Borders).

**Sports and recreation (ZU registered aircraft) accidents**
We again see a decline in the NTCA accidents. 2005 was the worst year and 2009 was the best year with a total of 43 accidents. It is interesting to note that the sports and recreation aircraft register has grown by 2.5% and yet there is a decline in the rate of accidents.

The graph indicates combined accident statistics.

2009 Accidents per type of operation
Private operators account for 67% of the total accidents, followed by training with 20%.

Sports and Recreation Accident Percentage

- **Total Accidents**: 75%
- **Sports and recreation Accident**: 25%

Sports and Recreation Accidents

**Monthly Accident Rate**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Jan</th>
<th>Feb</th>
<th>Mar</th>
<th>Apr</th>
<th>May</th>
<th>Jun</th>
<th>Jul</th>
<th>Aug</th>
<th>Sep</th>
<th>Oct</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>8</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Accidents monthly rate**

This graphs shows the best and the worst months with regard to accidents.
Serious Incidents comparison (2008 and 2009)

2009 Accident rate by province
Oversight

The South African Civil Aviation Authority has increased its oversight over the industry. This was done by obtaining more qualified personnel and by training.

Air Traffic Movements

The air traffic movements (take-offs and landings recorded mainly at ACSA airports) have decreased in 2009 compared to 2008. This means that we have had less aviation activity in 2009 compared to 2008.

Economic Recession

The economic recession may have resulted in less aviation activity. This means less flying by the general public and less aviation training activities. This also may have led to the reduction of aviation accidents.

Industry's Safety Initiatives

The SACAA together with the aviation industry have introduced several initiatives to ensure aviation safety. One of these initiatives is the GASI (General Aviation Safety Initiative) which is seeking for solutions to aviation safety concerns in the General Aviation Area.

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