

1 Air traffic accidents in recent years

A total of 17 accidents occurred in 2008 in Japan, resulting in 7 fatalities and 10 injuries. Only a few accidents per year involving large aircraft have occurred over recent years, mainly resulting from air turbulence. Most of the accidents involved small aircraft and so on.

Changes in Accidents, Fatalities and Injuries in Civil Aviation

Year	Number of accidents (cases)								Number of casualties (people)	
	Large aircraft	Small aircraft	Ultra-light aircraft	Helicopters	Gyroplanes	Gliders	Airships	Total	Fatalities	Injuries
2004	5	11	2	6	1	3	0	28	14	26
2005	1	8	0	7	0	7	0	23	16	20
2006	3	3	4	2	1	5	0	18	4	10
2007	5	3	4	7	0	4	0	23	10	25
2008	3	6	2	3	0	3	0	17	7	10

- Notes:
1. Source: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism
 2. All figures are as of the end of the given year.
 3. The figures also include accidents involving Japanese aircraft outside Japan (2 in 2004)
 4. The figures also include accidents involving foreign aircraft in Japan (2 in 2005, 1 in 2007)
 5. The figures do not include natural deaths or non-accidental casualties (self-inflicted or otherwise) occurring on board aircraft.
 6. Fatalities include all deaths occurring within 30 days and missing people.
 7. The injury figures for 2008 are provisional
 8. Large aircraft are the aircraft with maximum takeoff weight more than 5.7 tones and small aircraft are the aircraft with maximum takeoff weight not more than 5.7 tones.

2 Mishaps involving air-traffic safety in 2008

● Safety issues involving air carriers

A total of 740 safety issues such as accidents, serious incidents and other safety troubles involving Japanese air carriers were reported in 2007.

1 Ensuring safe operation of aircraft

● Promotion of preventive safety measures

The government has put together a group of intellectuals to analyze and discuss air traffic safety improvements. In addition information on accidents or serious incidents, and other safety troubles resulting from human error or mechanical defects were collected and analyzed in preventing air traffic accidents from occurring. In response to the results of the analysis, preventive safety measures that include improving educational training in order to prevent human-errors being made by air transportation employees have been promoted. The government also publishes the Annual Safety Report.

● Strengthening supervision of aircraft

The government performed effective safety audits of airlines that included unscheduled on-site inspections taking place upon the occurrence of safety issues. In addition to frequent highly professional and systematic on-site inspections being made by a full-time audit staff important safety issues were also pointed out to individual airlines. The status with the construction and improvement of the safety management systems of 39 airline operators had been evaluated by the end of December 2008. The government also launched the “Transport Safety Management System” in October 2006 in a unified safety approach of entire organizations from the top management down to front-line workers.

● Measurements against runway incursion

In order to prevent the recurrence of runway incursion, safety measurements incorporating both software and hardware solutions are being implemented. Requiring pilots to read back a controllers’ instruction properly will prevent any miscommunication between pilots and controllers. Support functions for the aerodrome control and Runway Status Lights (RWSL) system will provide both controllers and pilots with enhanced situational awareness of runway status such as runway occupation.

2 Ensuring aircraft safety

● Improving maintenance and examination of aircraft

A Standards and International Affairs of Airworthiness Division was established on April 1st 2008 as an organization that will establish aircraft technical criteria in Japan along with the launching of a Japanese only aircraft development project. More strict safety technical criteria for aircraft and equipment have been implemented as well in response to ICAO standards and improvements made in aircraft technology.