

# From tail strikes to tragedy: A look back at 2024's devastating aviation accidents

December 30, 2024, 15:44:50 IST

*The year 2024 has been a tough year for aviation with several tragic incidents highlighting the risks that still exist even with improved safety measures*



*Firefighters and rescue team members work near the wreckage of a passenger plane at Muan International Airport in Muan, South Korea, on December 29, 2024. AP*

While commercial air travel is widely recognised as the safest mode of transportation, with statistics showing that the likelihood of being involved in a plane crash is extremely low, the year 2024 has been a sobering reminder of aviation's vulnerabilities.

According to the National Safety Council, the odds of dying in a plane crash are about 1 in 11 million. While this statistic offers solace to millions of air travellers, the year 2024 has witnessed several aviation mishaps that have shaken the world.

From severe air turbulence to crash landings, aviation in 2024 has been marked by unfortunate incidents, many of which have resulted in significant loss of life. While severe turbulence, such as that affecting the Singapore Airlines flight in May, is rare, most incidents this year occurred during the critical landing phase of flights.

Despite advancements in technology and safety protocols, the landing phase remains one of the most vulnerable points in aviation, with mishaps often linked to human error, mechanical failure and environmental challenges.

### **Tailstrikes**

Tailstrikes occur when the rear of the aircraft contacts the runway during landing or takeoff. This often happens due to an excessive angle of descent or sudden manoeuvres, frequently exacerbated by pilot error.

Recent examples include the China Southern 787-9 tailstrike in October 2024 and the Air France A350-941 incident in January 2024. While tailstrikes rarely result in fatalities, they can cause structural damage, leading to expensive repairs and operational delays.

### **Hard landings and veering off**

Hard landings, such as Jeju Air's catastrophic gear-up incident in December 2024, are often caused by poor weather, wind shear, bird strikes or misjudged descent rates. Aircraft veering off runways, as seen in Serve Air Cargo's May 2024 mishap, are typically attributed to asymmetric braking, crosswinds or hydroplaning. These incidents pose significant risks to both the aircraft's integrity and passenger safety.

### **Ground collisions**

Ground collisions typically occur due to procedural lapses or poor visibility. Examples include the taxiway collision at Atlanta Airport in September 2024 and the January 2024 collision involving a Japan Airlines A350 at Haneda Airport.

### **Mechanical failures during approach or landing**

Mechanical failures, such as landing gear malfunctions or brake system issues, can lead to emergencies. Notable cases include the Total Linhas Aéreas cargo fire in November 2024

and Transair's runway overshoot in May 2024. These failures often point to gaps in maintenance practices and underscore the need for predictive technologies in aviation.

While the general statistics may offer comfort, 2024 has been marked by a series of significant aviation mishaps. The following incidents highlight some of the most tragic and impactful events in the aviation world this year:

### **December 29: Jeju Air Boeing 737-800 incident**

A Jeju Air Boeing 737-800 encountered a catastrophic gear-up landing at Muan Airport, South Korea, following its journey from Bangkok, Thailand. The aircraft skidded down runway 19 at high velocity, veering off the tarmac and striking a nearby wall. The collision caused the plane to break apart into multiple pieces and erupt in flames.

All of the 175 passengers and crew members perished except for two flight attendants seated near the rear of the aircraft in what has become one of the most tragic aviation disasters in recent years.

### **December 25: Azerbaijan Airlines flight J28243 tragedy**

An Azerbaijan Airlines Embraer 190, en route from Baku to Grozny with 67 individuals onboard, was forced to reroute to Aktau Airport in Kazakhstan due to severe weather conditions. The aircraft crashed during its landing attempt, resulting in the loss of 42 lives. The remaining 25 passengers survived, some with injuries.

### **November 25: DHL Cargo Plane crash**

A Swiftair-operated DHL Boeing 737-400F, flying from Leipzig to Vilnius, was destroyed upon impact with the ground while approaching runway 19 at Vilnius International Airport. Among the five individuals onboard, one pilot tragically lost their life, while the other four sustained significant injuries but survived the accident.

### **November 24: Azimuth Airlines Sukhoi Superjet 100 incident**

According to an *AeroTime* report, an Azimuth Airlines Sukhoi Superjet 100 experienced a severe landing mishap at Antalya Airport, Turkey after a routine flight from Sochi, Russia with 95 passengers onboard. The hard landing caused significant damage to the

undercarriage, leading to a fuel leak that ignited a massive fire. Fortunately, all passengers and crew were safely evacuated without injuries.

**November 9: Total Linhas Aereas Boeing 737-400F emergency landing**

A Total Linhas Aéreas Boeing 737-400F conducted an emergency landing at Sao Paulo-Guarulhos International Airport, Brazil, following a fire outbreak in its cargo hold. Both pilots escaped unharmed.

**October 21: China Southern 787-9 Dreamliner tailstrike**

A China Southern 787-9 Dreamliner sustained significant damage during a hard landing at Guangzhou-Baiyun International Airport after completing a flight from Shanghai. The tailstrike incident caused no injuries among passengers or crew.

**October 20: Twin Otter crash in Indonesia**

A SAM Air DHC-6 Twin Otter crashed while approaching Bumi Panua Pohuwato Airport in Indonesia, claiming the lives of all four occupants, including three crew members and one passenger. The aircraft, which departed from Gorontalo-Jalaluddin Airport for a brief journey, stalled and went down in a waterlogged field near its destination, leaving the plane completely destroyed.

**October 18: Turkish Airlines Airbus tailstrike**

A Turkish Airlines Airbus suffered a tailstrike during a landing attempt at Dublin Airport, Ireland.

**September 10: Taxiway collision at Atlanta airport**

At Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, a Delta Air Lines Airbus A350-900 made contact with an Endeavour Air (Delta Connection) Canadair CRJ-900 during taxiing. While most onboard both planes remained unharmed, a flight attendant on the CRJ sustained minor injuries.

**September 9: Trigana Air runway incident**

A Trigana Air ATR42 veered off the runway after aborting takeoff at Serui Airport, Indonesia. The aircraft, travelling between Biak and Jayapura, came to rest in soft terrain and shrubs beside the runway. It suffered severe damage though no injuries were reported.

**August 9: Fatal Voepass Airlines ATR-72 crash**

A Voepass Airlines ATR-72 crashed near Vinhedo, Sao Paulo, Brazil, after encountering extreme icing conditions. The pilots lost control resulting in a crash that claimed all 62 lives onboard including 58 passengers and four crew.

**July 24: Saurya Airlines CRJ200 catastrophe**

A Bombardier CRJ200 operated by Saurya Airlines crashed during takeoff at Tribhuvan International Airport in Kathmandu. Of the 19 people onboard, 18 perished, leaving the pilot as the sole survivor. Investigations raised concerns about the airline's maintenance practices.

**May 21: Singapore Airlines flight hits severe turbulence**

A Singapore Airlines Boeing 777-300ER, en route from London to Singapore, encountered severe turbulence over Myanmar's Irrawaddy Basin. One passenger suffered a fatal cardiac arrest and 30 others required hospitalisation. The flight made an emergency landing in Bangkok.

**May 9: Transair Boeing 737-300 runway overshoot**

At Dakar-Blaise Diagne International Airport, Senegal, a Transair Boeing 737-300 aborted its takeoff and overshoot the runway. Ten individuals were injured and the aircraft sustained irreparable damage.

**May 5: Serve Air Cargo runway overrun**

A Serve Air Cargo Boeing 737-300 suffered a runway overrun at Kinshasa-N'djili International Airport, Congo. An engine failure during approach caused substantial damage to the aircraft.

**March 20: Lightning strikes ANA Boeing 787-9**

An All Nippon Airways Boeing 787-9 flying from Los Angeles to Tokyo sustained significant fuselage damage due to lightning strikes while descending toward Tokyo-Narita Airport.

**January 24: Russian Ilyushin Il-76M disaster**

A Russian Ilyushin Il-76M transport aircraft crashed in Belgorod, Russia, killing all 74 onboard, including 65 Ukrainian prisoners of war. Moscow accused Ukraine of shooting down the plane, making this the deadliest aviation accident of the year.

**January 21: Air France A350-941 tailstrike**

An Air France Airbus A350-941 experienced a tailstrike during a go-around at Toronto-Pearson International Airport.

**January 18: Jetways Kenya Fokker 50 crash**

A Jetways Kenya Fokker 50 transporting humanitarian aid for the UN World Food Programme crashed on landing at Ceelbarde Airstrip, Somalia. The crash killed one pilot, seriously injured one person and caused minor injuries to two others.

**January 10: United Airlines tailstrike incident**

A United Airlines Boeing 737-900ER suffered a tailstrike during landing at Houston's George Bush Intercontinental Airport after a flight from Phoenix.

**January 5: Alaska Airlines rapid decompression**

An Alaska Airlines Boeing 737 MAX 9 returned to Portland after its left mid-exit door plug detached mid-flight, causing rapid decompression. Eight passengers and crew members suffered minor injuries.

**January 5: Flybondi tailstrike at Mar del Plata**

A Flybondi Boeing 737-800 sustained substantial rear fuselage damage after a tailstrike during landing at Mar del Plata International Airport, Argentina. Despite the damage, the aircraft taxied to the apron normally.

**January 2: Deadly collision at Haneda airport**

Tokyo's Haneda Airport witnessed a collision between a Japan Airlines Airbus A350 and a Japan Coast Guard aircraft. While all 379 passengers on the commercial flight were safely evacuated, five crew members aboard the Coast Guard plane lost their lives.

# Biggest aviation accidents 2024

Dec 31, 2024 •

(Reuters) – The crash on Sunday of a Jeju Air Boeing 737-800 in Muan County killed a total of 179 people in the deadliest air disaster on South Korean soil.

Here are some of the biggest aviation accidents of 2024, in order of severity:

## **SOUTH KOREA**

Jeju Air international flight 7C2216, originating from Bangkok, Thailand, and flying to Muan International Airport, crashed on Dec. 29, killing all 175 passengers and four of the six crew.

## **BRAZIL**

Voepass regional flight 2283, an ATR-72 turboprop originating from Cascavel and directed to Sao Paulo, crashed on Aug. 11 in the town of Vinhedo, killing all 62 people on board.

In a separate accident, a small private plane, a twin-engine Piper PA-42-1000, carrying 10 people crashed into shops in the center of the tourist city of Gramado in southern Brazil on Dec. 22, killing everyone on board and injuring 17 people on the ground.

## **KAZAKHSTAN**

Azerbaijan Airlines international flight J2-8243, an Embraer E190 originating from Baku, Azerbaijan, and directed to Grozny, Russia, crashed near the city of Aktau in Kazakhstan on Dec. 25, killing 39 people. 29 people survived.

## **NEPAL**

The CRJ-200 aircraft, a small passenger plane belonging to Nepal's Saurya Airlines, crashed and caught fire while taking off from Kathmandu to the Pokhara

airport on July 24, killing 18 people on board and leaving one survivor, the captain.

## **MALAWI**

Malawi's Vice President Saulos Klaus Chilima and nine others, including former first lady Shanil Dzimbiri, were killed on June 10 en route from Lilongwe to Mzuzu, when the military plane they were travelling in crashed.

## **THAILAND**

Domestic charter flight TFT209, a Cessna Caravan C208B registered to Thai Flying Service Co originating from Suvarnabhumi and directed to Trat, crashed 100 km southeast of Bangkok on Aug. 23, killing all 9 people onboard.

## **IRAN**

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and six other passengers and crew of a U.S.-made Bell 212 helicopter died in a crash on May 19 in mountainous terrain in the Varzeqan region, near the Azerbaijan border.

## **CANADA**

Six people were killed after a Northwestern Air plane carrying global miner Rio Tinto's workers crashed near Fort Smith in Canada's remote Northwest Territories (NWT) on Jan. 23. Four passengers and two North Western Air Lease crew members died in the crash, while one passenger survived.

## **JAPAN**

A Japan Airlines (JAL) plane collided with a smaller Coast Guard aircraft on the runway of Tokyo's Haneda airport on Jan. 2. All 379 people aboard the JAL plane, an Airbus A350-941 flight, escaped the burning airliner, while five of six crew on the smaller aircraft were killed.

## SINGAPORE

One passenger died of a suspected heart attack and 30 were injured after a Singapore Airlines Boeing 777-300ER plane from London to Singapore hit severe turbulence on May 21, flinging passengers and crew around the cabin and forcing the plane to land in Bangkok.



The debris at the site where an airplane crashed with 61 people on board, in Vinhedo, Sao Paulo state, Brazil, early on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024. (File photo: AP)

## Commercial flights suffer deadliest year since 2018 after week of plane crashes

Bloomberg

Published: 30 December ,2024

Commercial aviation has suffered its deadliest year since 2018 after the Jeju Air Co. disaster in South Korea and last week's downing of an Azerbaijan Airlines plane.

Onboard passenger plane fatalities this year jumped to 318 with the two recent crashes, data compiled by Cirium shows.

That's by far the highest death toll since more than 500 people died in 2018, a year marked by the first of two Boeing Co. 737 Max crashes. This year started and ended with tragedies in Japan and South Korea during attempted landings, among the most dangerous phases of flight. Fatal aviation accidents remain very rare, and one major incident can suddenly turn a statistically safe year into one of the worst.

Investigators have yet to determine why a Jeju Air Boeing 737-800 — a predecessor to the Max — careered down the runway at Muan International Airport early Sunday with no landing gear deployed and smashed into a concrete wall. All but two of the 181 people on board died as the wrecked jet exploded into a ball of fire.

After another Jeju plane experienced a landing-gear issue, Korean authorities on Monday ordered maintenance record checks of 101 other 737-800s in operation among local airlines. Boeing shares fell in early US trading.

The wider inspections came as investigators started to analyze the cockpit voice recorder and the damaged flight data device, which hold crucial clues into the movements of the jet and the actions and state of the pilots.

In January, a huge Japan Airlines Co. jet collided with a coastguard plane at Tokyo's Haneda Airport. Everyone aboard the commercial jetliner survived, but five people on the smaller aircraft were killed. The year was also marred by a fatal case of severe turbulence in May on a Singapore Airlines Ltd. jet flying over Myanmar.

In July, Nepal's Saurya Airlines crashed after taking off from Kathmandu, killing 18. And in August dramatic footage of a plane operated by Brazilian airline VoePass captured the turboprop freefalling from the sky after encountering icy weather conditions. That accident killed 62.

Global conflicts may also have contributed to this year's aviation fatalities. The Azerbaijan Airlines Embraer SA 190 had nearly completed a scheduled flight from the capital city of Baku to Grozny, Russia, on Dec. 25 when it was suddenly diverted across the Caspian Sea. The damaged plane crashed about 3 kilometers (1.9 miles) from its destination of Aktau, Kazakhstan. Azerbaijan's president has said the plane was accidentally shot down by Russia.

The spike in fatalities marks a reversal from 2023, which became the safest year ever in aviation with no fatalities among large passenger jetliners — typically planes made by Airbus SE and Boeing. The safety trend had been improving even as air traffic increased following the pandemic.

Jeju Air's first fatal crash also marked the worst civil air accident ever in South Korea. While the Jeju Air aircraft was almost entirely destroyed, investigators will have valuable data to work with as they reconstruct the event. The damaged flight data device may take longer to analyze than the cockpit voice recorder.

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## **9 Plane Crashes in 2024**

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**List of the 9 airplane accidents that happened in 2024 :**



[Date : 29th December, 2024](#)

[Airline : Jeju Air](#)

[Aircraft : Boeing 737-8AS](#)

[More details, photos and map...](#)

[Location : Muan, South Korea](#)

[People on board : 181](#)

[Fatalities : 179](#)



[Date : 25th December, 2024](#)

[Airline : Azerbaijan Airlines](#)

[Aircraft : Embraer 190AR](#)

[More details, photos and map...](#)

[Location : Aktau, Kazakhstan](#)

[People on board : 67](#)

[Fatalities : 38](#)



[Date : 25th November, 2024](#)

[Airline : DHL](#)

[Aircraft : Boeing 737-476SF](#)

[More details, photos and map...](#)

[Location : Vilnius, Lithuania](#)

[People on board : 4](#)

[Fatalities : 1](#)



[Date : 9th August, 2024](#)

[Airline : Voepass Linhas Aéreas](#)

[Aircraft : ATR 72-500](#)

[More details, photos and map...](#)

[Location : Vinhedo, Brazil](#)

[People on board : 62](#)

[Fatalities : 62](#)



[Date : 12th July, 2024](#)

[Airline : Gazpromavia](#)

[Aircraft : Sukhoi SSJ100-95](#)

[More details, photos and map...](#)

[Location : Kolomna, Russia](#)

[People on board : 3](#)

[Fatalities : 3](#)



[Date : 9th May, 2024](#)

[Airline : Transair Senegal](#)

[Aircraft : Boeing 737-38J](#)

[More details, photos and map...](#)

[Location : Dakar, Senegal](#)

[People on board : 85](#)

[Fatalities : 0](#)



[Date : 5th May, 2024](#)

[Airline : Serve Air Cargo](#)

[Aircraft : Boeing 737-3YOF](#)

[More details, photos and map...](#)

Location : Kinshasa, Congo

People on board : ?

Fatalities : 0



[Date : 31st March, 2024](#)

[Airline : Safe Air Company](#)

[Aircraft : Boeing 727-2Q9](#)

[More details, photos and map...](#)

[Location : Malakal, South Sudan](#)

[People on board : 7](#)

[Fatalities : 0](#)



[Date : 2nd January, 2024](#)

[Airline : Japan Airlines](#)

[Aircraft : Airbus A350-900](#)

[More details, photos and map...](#)

[Location : Tokyo, Japan](#)

[People on board : 379](#)

[Fatalities : 0 + 5 on ground](#)

## 2024 in aviation

This is a list of **aviation-related events in 2024**.

### Events

#### January

##### 2 January

A runway collision at [Haneda Airport](#) in Tokyo occurred when [Japan Airlines Flight 516](#), operated by an [Airbus A350-900](#) arriving from [Sapporo](#), collided with a [Japan Coast Guard](#) aircraft and both aircraft caught on fire. This resulted in the complete destruction of both aircraft. All 367 passengers and 12 crew members of the Airbus were evacuated. There were six occupants on board the Coast Guard aircraft, a [De Havilland Canada Dash 8](#); the captain escaped with serious injuries whilst the remaining five crew members were killed. The Coast Guard aircraft was scheduled to provide relief to [Niigata](#) in response to the previous day's [Noto Peninsula earthquake](#).<sup>[1][2]</sup>

##### 5 January

Shortly after departing [Portland International Airport](#) in Oregon, a [Boeing 737 MAX 9](#) operating as [Alaska Airlines Flight 1282](#) suffered an explosive decompression when a plug covering an unused exit door blew out. The aircraft made a safe return to Portland with all 177 occupants alive.<sup>[3]</sup> The [FAA](#) subsequently ordered all 737 MAX 9 planes fitted with door plugs to be grounded for inspection.<sup>[4]</sup> It was subsequently reported that Alaska Airlines and United Airlines both discovered faults on other 737s.<sup>[5]</sup>

##### 12 January

An [autonomous underwater vehicle](#) – developed by the [National Institute of Ocean Technology](#) and launched with the aim of finding the wreckage of an [Indian Air Force Antonov An-26](#) that [disappeared](#) over the [Bay of Bengal](#) on 22 July 2016 – located the wreckage of the aircraft 310 kilometres (190 mi) off the [Chennai](#) coast.<sup>[6][7][8]</sup>

Following [airstrikes](#) conducted by the [United States](#) and the [United Kingdom](#) against [Houthi-held Yemen](#), the [Federal Air Transport Agency](#) banned Russian airlines from flying through Yemeni airspace until further notice.<sup>[9][10]</sup>

## 16 January

The [United States Department of Justice](#) blocked the proposed \$3.8 billion acquisition of [Spirit Airlines](#) by [JetBlue](#), citing that it would create a lack of competition in [low-cost carriers](#). The [stock price](#) of Spirit Airlines dropped by 47% after the decision was made.<sup>[11]</sup>

## 18 January

At the [WINGS India 2024](#) event in [Hyderabad](#), [Akasa Air](#) placed an order for 150 [Boeing 737 MAX](#) aircraft, including both the MAX 10 and MAX 200 variants.<sup>[12]</sup>

## 23 January

A [BAe Jetstream 32](#) operating as [Northwestern Air Flight 738](#) crashed shortly after takeoff from [Fort Smith Airport](#), Northwest Territories, Canada, when at 500 m (1,600 ft), killing six out of the seven on board.<sup>[13]</sup>

## 24 January

A Russian [Ilyushin Il-76M](#) transport aircraft, reportedly carrying 65 Ukrainian [prisoners of war](#) along with three other passengers and six crew from [Chkalovsky air base](#) near Moscow to [Belgorod](#), [crashed](#) in the [Belgorod region](#) of Russia.<sup>[14]</sup>

## February

### 6 February

A [Robinson R44 Raven II](#) helicopter piloted by former Chilean president [Sebastián Piñera](#) lost control and [crashed](#) into [Lake Ranco](#) in Chile. Piñera was killed and the other three people on board survived.<sup>[15][16]</sup>

### 9 February

A [Bombardier Challenger 600](#) operating as [Hop-A-Jet Flight 823](#) crashed into a vehicle on Interstate 75 in [Collier County, Florida](#) while attempting to make an [emergency landing](#). Two of the five on board were killed in the crash.<sup>[17]</sup>

### 11 February

The [United States Department of Justice](#) seized a [Boeing 747-300](#) registered as YV3531 belonging to Venezuelan state-owned airline [Emtrasur Cargo](#). The DOJ said that the aircraft was sold to Emtrasur Cargo by [Mahan Air](#),<sup>[18][19]</sup> a sanctioned Iranian airline due to its affiliation with the [Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps](#),<sup>[20]</sup> which was in violation of American export control laws. The aircraft was initially detained by Argentina on 6 June 2022, shortly after the United States had issued a seizure warrant.<sup>[18][19]</sup> The aircraft was subsequently scrapped at [Dade-Collier Training and Transition Airport](#).<sup>[21][22]</sup>

### 18 February

[Air Serbia Flight 324](#), an [Embraer 195](#) operated by [Marathon Airlines](#), struck landing lights on takeoff at Belgrade [Nikola Tesla Airport](#). The aircraft flew for another hour before making an [emergency landing](#) at the same airport with a gaping hole in the [fuselage](#). All 111 occupants were reported safe.<sup>[23][24]</sup>

### 20–25 February

The [Singapore Airshow](#) was held.<sup>[25]</sup> Highlights included orders for Airbus from [Vietjet](#) (20 [A330neos](#)) and [Starlux Airlines](#) (three [A330neos](#) and five [A350Fs](#)), Boeing from [Thai Airways](#) (45 [787-9s](#)) and [Royal Brunei Airlines](#) (four [787-9s](#)), and Comac from [Tibet Airlines](#) (40 [C919s](#) and 10 [ARJ21s](#)).<sup>[26]</sup>

## 21 February

The [TAI TF Kaan](#), a fifth-gen stealth fighter being developed by [Turkish Aerospace Industries](#), performed its maiden flight.<sup>[27]</sup>

## 26 February

[Canadian](#) Budget airline [Lynx Air](#) ceased operations due to financial issues.<sup>[28][29]</sup>

## March

### 5 March

A [Dash 8-300](#) operating as [Safarilink Aviation](#) Flight 53 from [Wilson Airport](#), Nairobi to [Diani](#) near [Mombasa](#) was involved in a [mid-air collision](#) with a [Cessna 172](#) operated by a local flying school. The Dash returned to Wilson and landed safely with no injuries among the 39 passengers and 5 crew. The Cessna crashed in [Nairobi National Park](#) killing the two occupants.<sup>[30]</sup>

### 8 March

[David E. Harris](#), the first African American pilot who flew for a [major airline](#), died at the age of 89.<sup>[31][32]</sup>

### 10 March

A [Boeing 787-9](#) operating as [LATAM Airlines Flight 800](#) experienced an in-flight [upset](#), injuring 50 of the 272 occupants on board the aircraft. The plane made an [emergency landing](#) at [Auckland Airport](#).<sup>[33][34]</sup>

### 12 March

A Russian [Ilyushin Il-76](#) military transport aircraft [crashed](#) near [Belgorod](#) after suffering an engine fire. All 15 on board were killed.<sup>[35][36]</sup>

In response to Argentina's role in the seizure of a Venezuelan state-owned [Emtrasur Cargo Boeing 747-300](#) registered as YV3531 by the [DOJ](#), Venezuela closed its airspace to Argentine aircraft. The [Venezuelan Government](#) stated that the airspace would remain blocked until Argentina compensated the country.<sup>[37][38]</sup>

### 22 March

The [Boom XB-1](#), a prototype/technology demonstrator supersonic aircraft developed by [Boom Supersonic](#), conducted its first flight from [Mojave Air and Space Port](#). The flight reached a maximum altitude of 7,120 feet (2,170 m) and a top speed of 246 knots (456 km/h; 283 mph) during its 12-minute flight.<sup>[39]</sup> The company aims to use the XB-1 to develop its [Overture supersonic airliner](#), of which the XB-1 is a roughly 1/3rd scale model.<sup>[40]</sup>

### 29 March

In response to Venezuela's airspace closure to Argentina, the [Argentine Government](#) and [United States Government](#) lodged a complaint to the [International Civil Aviation Organization](#) (ICAO) to protest the closure, requesting that the airspace be reopened as a violation of the [Chicago Convention](#).<sup>[41][42]</sup>

## April

### 4 April

US company Skydweller Aero completes the world's first [unmanned flight](#) of a large solar-powered aircraft.<sup>[43]</sup>

### 13 April

[Iraq](#), [Jordan](#), [Lebanon](#), [Syria](#), [Kuwait](#) and [Israel](#) all closed their airspace in response to the [Iranian strikes in Israel](#).<sup>[44][45]</sup>

### 17 April

The [FAA](#) implemented a [ground stop](#) for [Alaska Airlines](#) and its subsidiary [Horizon Air](#) (meaning planes were not permitted to take off) after a notification by the airline. Alaska Airlines made the request after an issue surfaced during a routine system upgrade essential for ensuring [aircraft weight and balance](#), although the exact nature of the issue has not been disclosed. The airline stated it had acted "out of an abundance of caution".<sup>[46]</sup>

### 18 April

Kenya's highest ranking military officer, [General Francis Ogolla](#), and nine other members of the [Kenya Defence Forces](#) were killed in the crash of a [UH-1 Huey](#) in western Kenya.<sup>[47][48]</sup>

### 23 April

Two [Royal Malaysian Navy](#) helicopters [collided](#) over [Lumut, Perak](#) in [Malaysia](#) during a formation flight as part of a rehearsal for the upcoming Navy day parade. All 10 people on board the [Leonardo AW139](#) and [Eurocopter Fennec](#) were killed.<sup>[49][50]</sup>

### 25 April

[Southwest Airlines](#) and [American Airlines](#) reported large first-quarter economic losses, with Southwest losing US\$231 million and American expecting to lay off over 2,000 employees during the remainder of the year. In addition, Southwest is to stop flying to [Cozumel](#), [Syracuse](#) and [Bellingham](#) airports. These declines have limited the airlines' abilities to order more aircraft in the near future, with Southwest cancelling some of its [Boeing 737](#) orders for the year.<sup>[51]</sup>

### 30 April

Australian low-cost airline [Bonza](#) which launched operations in January 2023, enters [voluntary administration](#) with all services suspended.<sup>[52]</sup>

## May

### 3 May

[Dick Rutan](#) dies at the age of 85 in [Coeur d'Alene](#), Idaho. He was the pilot of the first non-stop [round-the-world](#) flight on board the [Voyager](#) aircraft in 1986. He was the older brother of [Burt Rutan](#).<sup>[53]</sup>

### 17 May

[Bette Nash](#), the world's longest-serving flight attendant, dies at the age of 88, after working for [Eastern Air Lines](#) and then [American Airlines](#) for a total of 67 years.<sup>[54]</sup>

### 19 May

A [Bell 212](#) helicopter carrying Iranian [President Ebrahim Raisi](#), Foreign Minister [Hossein Amir-Abdollahian](#), Governor of East Azerbaijan [Malek Rahmati](#), and the Supreme Leader's representative in East Azerbaijan [Mohammad Ali Ale-Hashem](#), [crashed](#) near the [Iranian](#) city of [Varzaqan](#), [East Azerbaijan](#). There were no survivors.<sup>[55]</sup>

## 21 May

A [Boeing 777-300ER](#) operating as [Singapore Airlines Flight 321](#) flying from [London](#) to [Singapore](#), encountered severe turbulence killing 1 passenger and injuring 104 other passengers and crew members. The aircraft was diverted to [Bangkok](#), Thailand.<sup>[56][57]</sup>

## 27 May

Following the closure of [Porto Alegre Airport](#) on 3 May for an undetermined time, due to [flooding in the Rio Grande do Sul region](#), Brazilian airlines announce that limited services will be operated from [Canoas Air Force Base](#). A nearby shopping centre will host check-in and other terminal facilities.<sup>[58][59]</sup> A number of aircraft were also damaged.<sup>[60][*better source needed*][*needs update*]</sup>

## June

### 7 June

A [Beechcraft T-34](#) aircraft piloted by former [NASA](#) astronaut and [United States Air Force](#) pilot, [Bill Anders](#), author of the iconic [Earthrise](#) photograph, crashed near the US-Canada border. Anders did not survive the crash.<sup>[61]</sup>

### 10 June

A Malawi Air Force [Dornier 228](#) carrying Vice-President of [Malawi Saulos Chilima](#), former First Lady [Patricia Shanil Muluzi](#), and seven other occupants [crashed](#) in [Chikangawa Forest Reserve](#) in Mzimba District, killing all nine occupants on board.<sup>[62][63]</sup>

### 26 June

[Lufthansa City Airlines](#) begins operations as a subsidiary of [Lufthansa Group](#).<sup>[64]</sup>

### 30 June

[Boeing](#) announces the acquisition of key supplier [Spirit AeroSystems](#) for \$4.7 billion, with [Airbus](#) set to acquire the Spirit programmes producing major components for Airbus aircraft.<sup>[65][66]</sup>

## July

### 12 July

A [Sukhoi Superjet 100-95LR](#) on a [ferry flight](#) from [Lukhovitsy](#) to [Moscow](#), operating as [Gazpromavia Flight 9608](#), crashed whilst attempting an [emergency landing](#). All three occupants on board were killed.<sup>[67][68]</sup>

### 18 July

[Saudia](#) signs a binding sales agreement with [Lilium GmbH](#) to purchase 50 electric [Lilium Jets](#), with the option to purchase 50 more.<sup>[69]</sup>

### 19 July

During the [CrowdStrike incident](#), 5,078 air flights around the world, amounting to 4.6% of those scheduled that day, were cancelled.<sup>[70]</sup>

### 22–26 July

The [Farnborough International Airshow](#) was held.<sup>[71]</sup>

## 22–28 July

The [EAA AirVenture Oshkosh](#) was held at [Wittman Regional Airport](#), located in [Oshkosh, Wisconsin](#), United States.<sup>[72]</sup>

## 24 July

A [Bombardier CRJ200ER](#) operated by [Saurya Airlines](#) [crashed](#) shortly after takeoff from [Kathmandu, Nepal](#), on a test flight to [Pokhara](#). The pilot was the sole survivor of the crash, which killed 18 people.<sup>[73]</sup>

## 30 July

[Rex Airlines](#), Australia's third largest airline, ceases all domestic [Boeing 737](#) jet services and goes into [administration](#).<sup>[74]</sup>

## August

### 9 August

An [ATR 72-500](#) operating as [Voepass Linhas Aéreas Flight 2283](#) from [Cascavel](#) to [São Paulo](#), crashed in a residential area near [Vinhedo, São Paulo](#) killing all 58 passengers and 4 crew members on board.<sup>[75]</sup>

### 22 August

[Thai Flying Service Flight 209](#), a [Cessna Grand Caravan 208B](#) flying from [Suvarnabhumi](#) to [Trat](#), Thailand, crashed into a mangrove forest in [Bang Pakong](#), Chachoengsao, shortly after taking off, killing all nine occupants on board.<sup>[76][77]</sup>

### 28 August

Hundreds of domestic flights are cancelled in southwestern Japan as [Typhoon Shanshan](#) is set to make landfall.<sup>[78]</sup>

### 29 August

Serbia signs a 2.7 billion dollar contract with France's [Dassault Aviation](#) for the purchase of 12 [Dassault Rafale fighter jets](#) for the [Serbian Air Force](#).<sup>[79]</sup>

### 31 August

A Vitzay-Aero [Mil Mi-8](#) helicopter [crashed](#) over the [Kamchatka Peninsula](#) killing all 22 people on board.<sup>[80][81][82]</sup>

## September

### 1 September

[Scandinavian Airlines](#), one of the founding members of [Star Alliance](#), exits the alliance after 27 years and joins [SkyTeam](#).<sup>[83]</sup>

### 13 September

More than 33,000 [Boeing](#) machinists [go on strike](#), halting the production of the [Boeing 737](#), [Boeing 777](#) and the [Boeing 767](#) jets.<sup>[84]</sup>

### 18 September

[Hawaiian Airlines](#) merges with [Alaska Airlines](#) becoming the first U.S. airline to maintain both brands<sup>[clarify]</sup> <sup>[85]</sup><sup>[non-primary source needed]</sup>

## October

### 1 October

[AIX Connect](#) (formerly AirAsia India) officially ceases operations after merging with [Air India Express](#) with all fleet transferred.<sup>[86]</sup><sup>[importance?]</sup>

### 2 October

A bomb that was dropped by [US Forces](#) during World War II exploded under a taxiway at [Miyazaki Airport](#), damaging the surface and disrupting operations.<sup>[87]</sup>

### 21 October

An [Ilyushin Il-76](#) is [shot down](#) over [Darfur](#), Sudan, by the paramilitary [Rapid Support Forces](#). All five occupants are killed in the subsequent crash.<sup>[88]</sup><sup>[89]</sup>

### 23 October

The headquarters of [Turkish Aerospace Industries](#) (TAI) [is attacked](#) by multiple perpetrators with [bombs](#) and firearms, killing five workers. CCTV footage reportedly showed a man and a woman carrying assault rifles. The two perpetrators are later killed but leave 22 others injured and the headquarters severely damaged.<sup>[90]</sup><sup>[91]</sup><sup>[importance?]</sup>

### 26 October

After nearly 101 years of operation, [Czech Airlines](#) ceases operations and becomes a holding company under its parent company [Smartwings](#).<sup>[92]</sup><sup>[93]</sup>  
[QantasLink](#) retires the [Boeing 717](#) from its fleet after more than 20 years of service.<sup>[94]</sup><sup>[importance?]</sup>

### 30 October

[Iberia](#), the flag carrier of [Spain](#), takes delivery of the first [Airbus A321XLR](#) as the launch customer for the type. Registered as EC-OIL, this is the first out of eight A321XLRs ordered by Iberia.<sup>[95]</sup>

## November

### 5 November

A [Honda HA-420 HondaJet](#) crashed during an [aborted takeoff](#) at [Falcon Field Airport](#) in Mesa, Arizona, overrunning the runway and colliding with a vehicle, killing five people. The [NTSB](#) is investigating, marking this as the first [fatal accident](#) involving a HondaJet.

### 9 November

[Total Linhas Aéreas Flight 5682](#), a [Boeing 737-4Q8 \(SF\)](#), [caught fire in flight](#). The aircraft executed an [emergency landing](#) at [São Paulo/Guarulhos International Airport](#), [São Paulo](#), Brazil, with both occupants surviving without injuries. The aircraft was destroyed by the fire.<sup>[96]</sup>

### 12 November

[Vistara](#) merges with [Air India](#) and all operations are ceased with all assets transferred.<sup>[97]</sup>

### 12–17 November

The [China International Aviation & Aerospace Exhibition](#) was held in Zhuhai.<sup>[98]</sup>

### 13–15 November

The [Bahrain International Airshow](#) was held.<sup>[99]</sup>

#### 14 November

[Iberia](#) operated the first [long haul flight](#) of the [Airbus A321XLR](#) from [Madrid](#) to [Boston](#). The aircraft was delivered to the airline on 30 October.<sup>[100]</sup>

#### 18 November

[Spirit Airlines](#) files for [Chapter 11 bankruptcy](#) protection due to losses, debt, competition and failed mergers.<sup>[101][102]</sup>

#### 25 November

A [Boeing 737-400\(SF\)](#) operating as [Swiftair Flight 5960](#), from [Leipzig](#), Germany, to [Vilnius](#), Lithuania, on behalf of [DHL](#), crashed near a house on approach to Vilnius. One crew member was killed; no casualties were reported on the ground.<sup>[103]</sup>

[Emirates](#), the largest airline of the [UAE](#), takes delivery of its first [Airbus A350-900](#), registered as A6-EXA. This aircraft is the first out of the 65 A350-900s the airline had ordered.<sup>[104]</sup>

#### 26–28 November

Following the opening of the expansion projects at [Nuuk Airport](#), the bulk of [Air Greenland](#)'s services were transferred from [Kangerlussuaq Airport](#) to Nuuk. On 27 November 2024, the final scheduled Air Greenland flight to [Copenhagen](#) using their flagship [Airbus A330-800](#), departed Kangerlussuaq.<sup>[105]</sup> New services began at Nuuk from 28 November.<sup>[106]</sup>

#### 29 November

Following a sufficient confidence in the [Pakistan Civil Aviation Authority](#)'s (PCAA) oversight capabilities, the [European Union Aviation Safety Agency](#) (EASA) lifted a four-year-ban on [Pakistan International Airlines](#) (PIA) from operating in Europe. The ban was put in effect following the crash of [Pakistan International Airlines Flight 8303](#) in 2020.<sup>[107]</sup> PIA has stated that they plan on resuming flights to Europe.<sup>[108]</sup> In concurrence, EASA also lifted its ban on [AirBlue](#).<sup>[109][110]</sup>

### December

#### 13 December

Following the identification of serious safety concerns, the [European Union Aviation Safety Agency](#) (EASA) formally blacklisted [Air Tanzania](#) from operating to and within the [European Union](#) (EU), denying the airline a third-country operator authorization (TCO),<sup>[111][112]</sup> a requirement for foreign airlines seeking to operate within the EU.<sup>[113][114]</sup>

#### 18 December

A [Bombardier Challenger 300](#) owned by the president of [Club Atlético River Plate](#), arriving from [Punta del Este](#), Uruguay, [overran the runway](#) on landing at [San Fernando](#), Argentina, and hit the front of a home. Both pilots on board were killed.<sup>[115]</sup>

#### 20 December

The [Government of Malaysia](#) provisionally agreed to accept a second "no find, no fee" proposal from [Texas](#)-based company [Ocean Infinity](#) to continue searching for the wreckage of [Malaysia Airlines Flight 370](#) in a new 15,000 square

kilometres (5,800 sq mi) site in the [Indian Ocean](#), which was based on new information and data analysis. If the wreckage found is considered to be substantive, Ocean Infinity would receive [US\\$70 million](#). Speaking at a press conference, [Transport minister Anthony Loke](#) stated, "We hope this time will be positive, that the wreckage will be found and give closure to the families."<sup>[116][117][118]</sup> [Turkish Airlines](#) was awarded a [Guinness World Record](#) for the most countries flown to by an airline, a record held by the airline since 2012. The award was presented in [Chile](#), following Turkish Airlines' inaugural flight to [Arturo Merino Benítez International Airport](#) in [Santiago](#). Turkish Airlines now operates in 131 countries, 120 of them being confirmed as active by *Guinness World Records*.<sup>[119][120]</sup>

## **22 December**

A [Piper PA-42 Cheyenne](#) crashed shortly after takeoff at [Canela Airport](#), Brazil, killing all 10 occupants onboard and injuring a further 17 on the ground.<sup>[121][122]</sup>

## **23 December**

[Swiss International Air Lines Flight 1885](#), an [Airbus A220](#), flying from [Bucharest](#) to [Zurich](#), diverted to [Graz](#) after smoke developed in the cabin was in cruise flight at 40,000 feet (FL400). The aircraft was evacuated using the [emergency slides](#), and of the 79 people on board, 1 crew member died in the hospital.<sup>[123]</sup> An engine failure due to a previously unknown fault pattern was flagged during initial investigations.<sup>[124]</sup>

## **25 December**

[Azerbaijan Airlines Flight 8243](#), an [Embraer E-190AR](#), was believed to have been struck by a Russian surface-to-air missile and crashed near [Aktau](#), Kazakhstan, killing 38 of the 67 occupants onboard.<sup>[125]</sup>

## **28 December**

The [Philippine Air Force](#) withdrew the [North American OV-10 Bronco](#) from its fleet, the last air force employing them.<sup>[126]</sup>

## **29 December**

[Jeju Air Flight 2216](#), a [Boeing 737-800](#), overran the runway at [Muan](#), South Korea, and crashed while attempting to [belly land](#). Out of the 181 occupants, 179 were killed; however 2 flight attendants seated at the rear of the plane survived.<sup>[127]</sup>

## **30 December**

[Silver Airways](#) filed for [Chapter 11 bankruptcy](#) protection due to losses and debt.<sup>[128]</sup>