

<p>The Hulbert Financial Digest FROM MarketWatch</p> <p><small>MarketWatch, Inc. is not a registered investment advisor and does not provide any individualized advice. Future accuracy and profitable results cannot be guaranteed.</small></p>	<p>CLICK HERE NOW FREE 30-DAY TRIAL</p>	
--	---	---

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL.

WSJ.com

JUNE 30, 2009, 2:07 PM ET

Yemenia Crash: Is the Accident Rate Up This Year for Airlines?

With another air tragedy this morning, the crash of a Yemenia Airlines Airbus A310 in the sea off the Comoros Islands, you might be wondering if the frequency of airline crashes is up this year. After all, from the Colgan crash near Buffalo, N.Y., to the Air France crash off the coast of Brazil, there have been some terribly high-profile disasters.



Associated Press

People gather at Roissy airport, north of Paris, Tuesday as they wait for information about passengers.

According to aircraft tracking and consulting firm Ascend, the Yemenia crash is the fifth fatal passenger airline accident worldwide this year. In addition to Colgan's Continental Express flight and the Air France A330 crash, there were two other fatal airline accidents, both in February. One in Brazil claimed 22 lives and a Boeing 737 accident in Holland killed five people.

Measured in terms of total hull losses – planes that end up totaled after an accident – this year is on par with the past five years, according to Ascend. So far this year, there have been 11 Western-built planes damaged beyond repair in accidents, including the US Airways flight in the Hudson River. (Hull losses also include cargo carriers, so the FedEx MD-11 accident in Tokyo that killed a crew of two is included.)

In 2005, 2006 and 2007, there were 11 hull losses among Western-built planes by the end of June, according to Ascend. Last year, 2008, had 12 in the first half of the year, and ended the year with 26 hull losses—a few more than in any of the three previous years.

Ascend says the Yemenia plane that crashed while on approach to landing was built in 1990. It was the ninth total loss of an A310 and eighth fatal accident for that plane since it entered service in 1983.

Copyright 2008 Dow Jones & Company, Inc. All Rights Reserved

This copy is for your personal, non-commercial use only. Distribution and use of this material are governed by our [Subscriber Agreement](#) and by copyright law. For non-personal use or to order multiple copies, please contact Dow Jones Reprints at 1-800-843-0008 or visit www.djreprints.com