Over 21 million civilian aircraft departures occur every day. That is 40 departures every minute around the world. Departures are recorded by the territory to which the aircraft is registered, not the territory from which they physically take off. The difference between registered departure and physical take off is highlighted by Monaco, with the second most registered departures per person, but without an international airport inside its borders.

Two thirds of the worldwide aircraft departures are of aircraft registered in North America and Western Europe. Africa is particularly small on this map. The entire continent accounts for only 2.5% of all departures.

 Territory size shows the distribution of aircraft take-offs, measured by the aircraft’s territory of registration.

Map 027

John Denver, 1969

“...I'm leavin' on a jet plane — Don't know when I'll be back again — Oh babe, I hate to go”