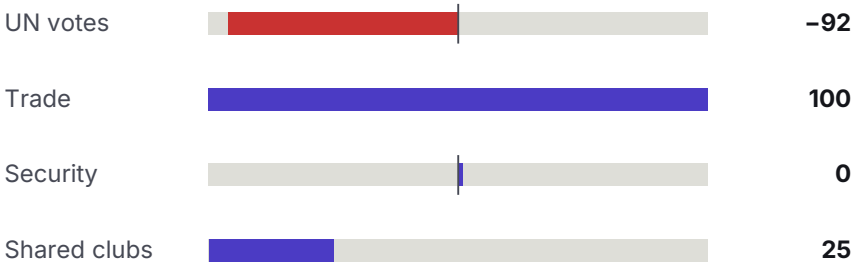
Australia & China

China is Australia's largest trade partner; at the UN they rarely vote alike.

−8

Distant

Relationship index, −100 to +100. Votes and security run from −100 to +100; trade and shared clubs from 0 to 100.

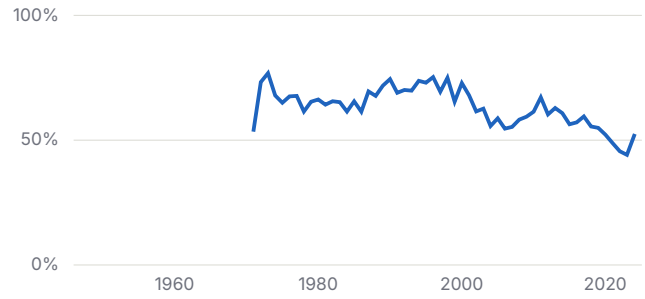


IN SHORT

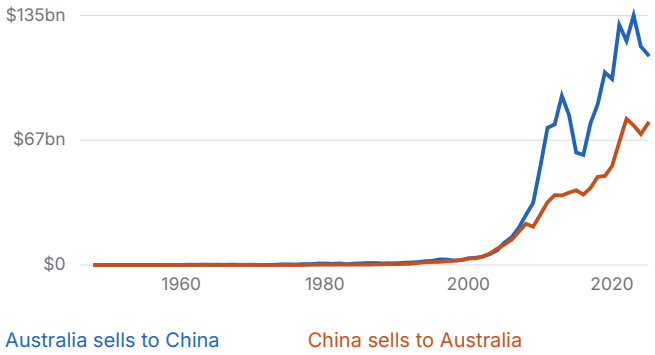
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides of the war in North Korea, South Korea, each supporting a side, most recently in 1953.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 47% (2022–2024), among the lowest either of them has with any country.
- Trade in goods ($197 billion a year) is very important for Australia, much less so for China.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, Australia names China far more often than the reverse (133 sentences against 2).
- 656,000 people born in China live in Australia (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved).

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way

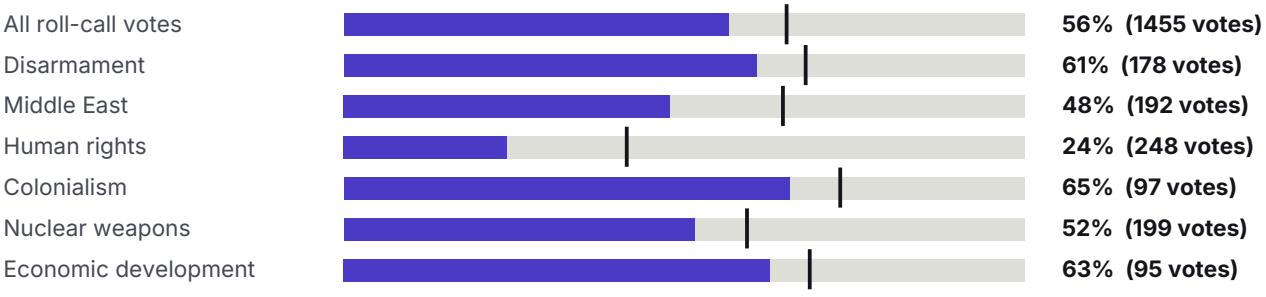


Goods exports each way (US dollars)



VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on colonialism (65% of votes the same), furthest apart on human rights (24%), against 56% on all votes since 2010.



Bar: since 2010. Mark: all years. Share of roll-call votes on whole texts cast the same way, counted vote by vote; an abstention against a yes counts as a difference. Disarmament, colonialism and economic development count votes up to 2018.

THE FACTS

UN votes	At the UN, the vote agreement of Australia and China was 47% in 2022–2024. For Australia, China is the 6th most distant voting partner out of 191; for China, Australia is the 11th most distant partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $197 billion a year in 2023–2025: 32.9% of all Australia's trade and 4.0% of China's. China is Australia's largest trading partner.
Words	Since 1946, Australia has named China in 133 sentences of its General Debate speeches; China has named Australia in 2.
Security	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program records them supporting opposite sides of a third party's armed conflict (North Korea, South Korea, 1950–1953).
People	14,000 people born in Australia live in China and 656,000 born in China live in Australia (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 14 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	269 shared votes on whole texts in 2022–2024, the years the headline share covers. With that many, a share is good to about ±6 points.
Trade	**High**	Goods trade is reported in 3 of the 3 years 2023–2025. Goods only, from customs data (IMF); services and energy pipelines are not in it.
Security	**High**	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program covers every state up to 2025. It counts only conflicts with at least 25 battle deaths a year.
Shared clubs	**High**	The list of tracked groups is fixed; membership is checked by hand.
Index	**High**	As sure as the weaker of its two required parts, votes and trade. Security and shared clubs add to it but never make it surer.

MOMENTS (EDITORIAL CONTEXT, NEVER PART OF A SCORE)

1950	Australian troops fight in the Korean War, on the opposite side to China
1972	Diplomatic relations established
2015	Free trade agreement in force
2020	After Australia calls for an inquiry into the origins of COVID-19, China restricts imports of Australian barley, wine, coal and more
2024	China lifts most of its trade restrictions on Australian goods

SOURCES AND HOW TO CITE

UN votes, speeches, mentions and trade: Nations on Record (UN General Assembly voting data, UN General Debate Corpus, IMF International Trade in Goods). Armed conflict: Uppsala Conflict Data Program, version 26.1. Migration: UN DESA International Migrant Stock 2024. Refugees: UNHCR. Football: international results archive (CC0). Every score follows fixed rules written out on /method; AI never sets a score. Independent and non-commercial; not affiliated with the United Nations.

Cite as

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