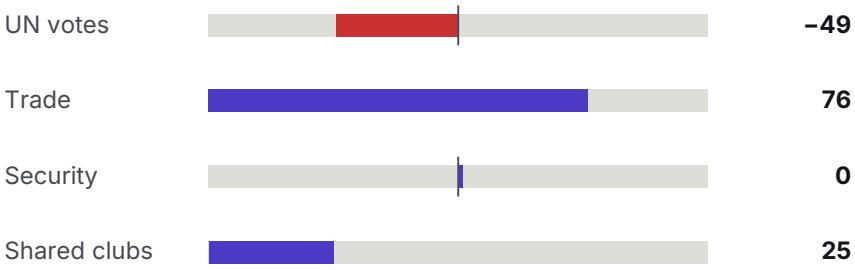
Costa Rica & Nicaragua

+2

Neutral

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

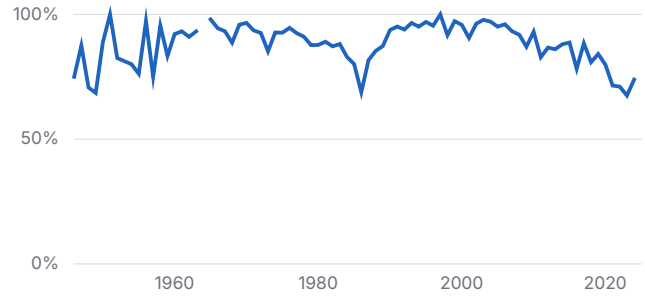


IN SHORT

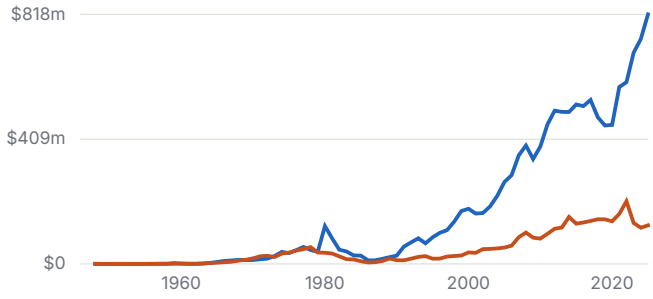
- At the UN their vote agreement is 71% (2022–2024), lower than either of them has with most countries.
- Trade in goods ($876 million a year) is important for Nicaragua, less so for Costa Rica.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, Costa Rica names Nicaragua more often than the reverse (60 sentences against 34).
- 423,000 people born in Nicaragua live in Costa Rica (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved). A separate count, by UNHCR: 179,000 refugees and asylum seekers from Nicaragua in Costa Rica; the two counts measure different things and are not added up.

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way



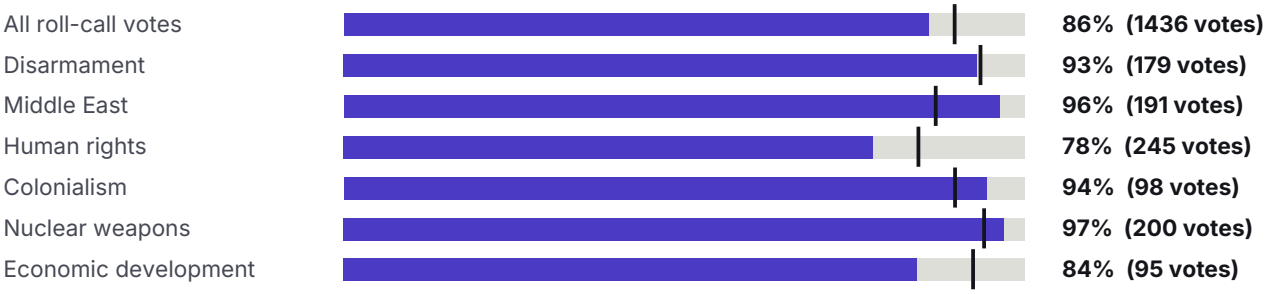
Goods exports each way (US dollars)



Costa Rica sells to Nicaragua Nicaragua sells to Costa Rica

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on nuclear weapons (97% of votes the same), furthest apart on human rights (78%), against 86% 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 Costa Rica and Nicaragua was 71% in 2022–2024. For Costa Rica, Nicaragua is the 21st most distant voting partner out of 191; for Nicaragua, Costa Rica is the 77th most distant partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $876 million a year in 2023–2025: 2.1% of all Costa Rica's trade and 6.5% of Nicaragua's. Nicaragua is Costa Rica's 8th largest trading partner.
Words	Since 1946, Costa Rica has named Nicaragua in 60 sentences of its General Debate speeches; Nicaragua has named Costa Rica in 34.
Security	No armed conflict between the two governments is recorded since 1946 (UCDP, data to 2025).
People	12,000 people born in Costa Rica live in Nicaragua and 423,000 born in Nicaragua live in Costa Rica (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 19 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	266 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.

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
NationsRelations. (2026). Costa Rica & Nicaragua [scoring rules 0.4 (14 Nov 2026), scores built 2026-11-14]. https://nationsrelations.org/p/cri-nic

Scan to open the live page