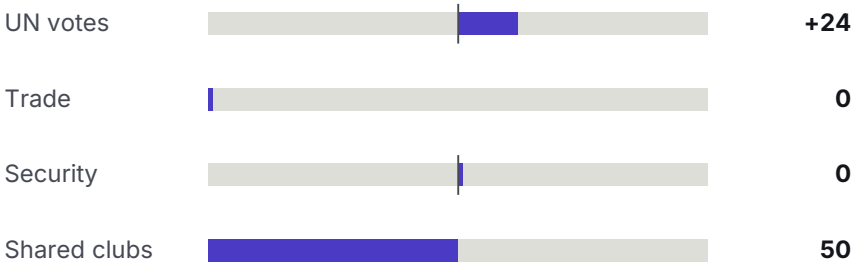
Iran & Saudi Arabia

Gulf rivals who shook hands in Beijing.

+16

Neutral

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

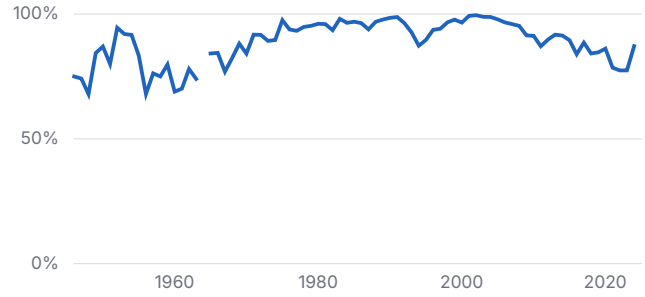


IN SHORT

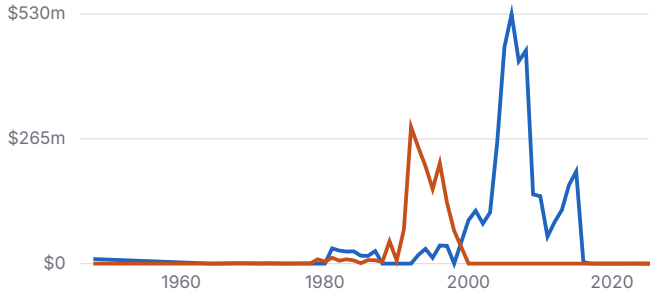
- At the UN their vote agreement is 81% (2022–2024), higher than either of them has with most countries.
- Trade in goods ($80 thousand a year) is a very small part of either country's trade, under 0.5%.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, Saudi Arabia names Iran far more often than the reverse (122 sentences against 6).

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way



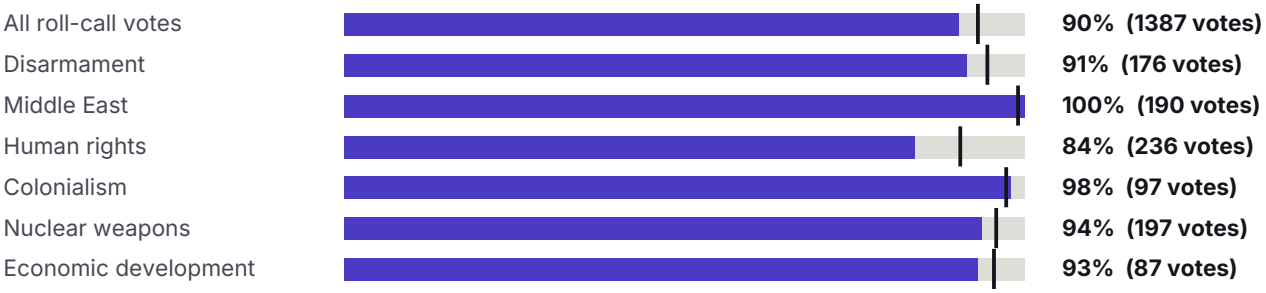
Goods exports each way (US dollars)



Iran sells to Saudi Arabia Saudi Arabia sells to Iran

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on Middle East (100% of votes the same), furthest apart on human rights (84%), against 90% 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 Iran and Saudi Arabia was 81% in 2022–2024. For Iran, Saudi Arabia is the 38th closest voting partner out of 191; for Saudi Arabia, Iran is the 83rd most distant partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $80 thousand a year in 2023–2025: less than 0.1% of all Iran's trade and less than 0.1% of Saudi Arabia's.
Words	Since 1946, Iran has named Saudi Arabia in 6 sentences of its General Debate speeches; Saudi Arabia has named Iran in 122.
Security	No armed conflict between the two governments is recorded since 1946 (UCDP, data to 2025).
People	Their national football teams have met 14 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	256 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	**Medium**	Goods trade is reported in 2 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	**Medium**	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)

2016 Relations cut after the storming of the Saudi embassy
2023 China-brokered deal restores relations

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.

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