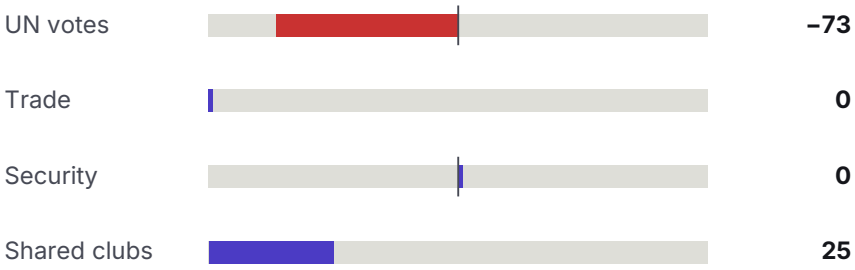
Japan & North Korea

−22

Distant

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

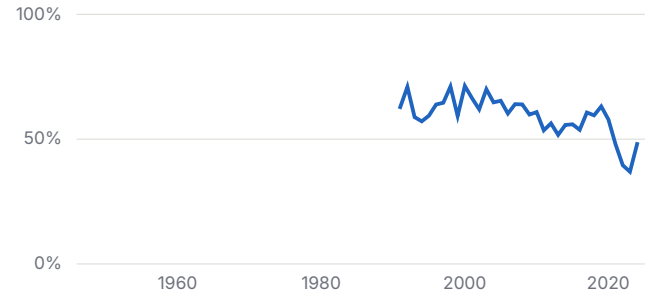


IN SHORT

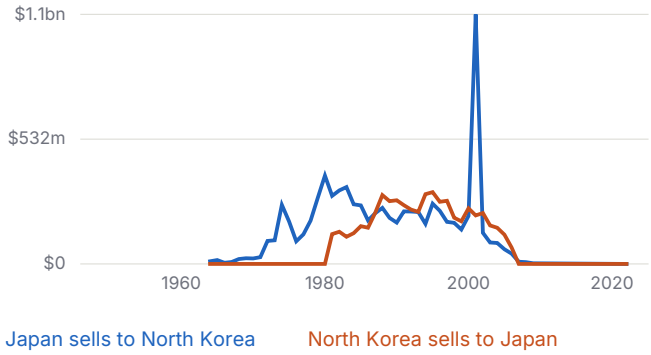
- At the UN their vote agreement is 42% (2022–2024), among the lowest either of them has with any country.
- They have no recorded trade in goods.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, Japan names North Korea more often than the reverse (156 sentences against 67).
- 24,000 people born in North Korea live in Japan (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved).

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way

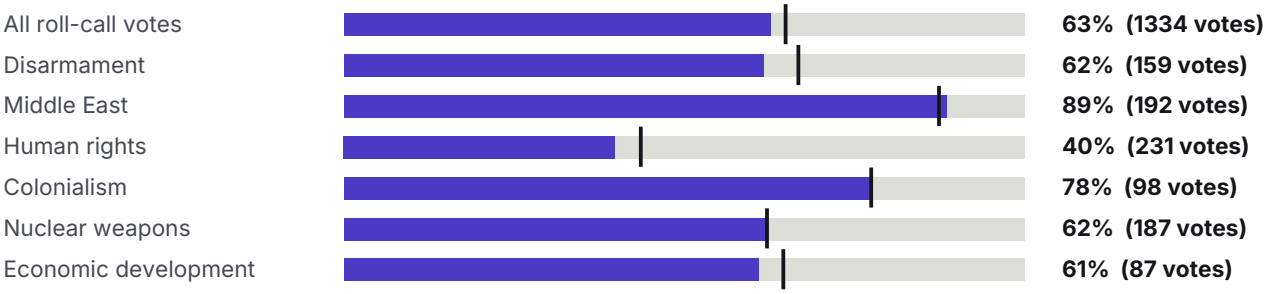


Goods exports each way (US dollars)



VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on Middle East (89% of votes the same), furthest apart on human rights (40%), against 63% 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 Japan and North Korea was 42% in 2022–2024. For Japan, North Korea is the 2nd most distant voting partner out of 191; for North Korea, Japan is the 52nd most distant partner.
Trade	No trade in goods between them is recorded for 2023–2025.
Words	Since 1946, Japan has named North Korea in 156 sentences of its General Debate speeches; North Korea has named Japan in 67.
Security	No armed conflict between the two governments is recorded since 1946 (UCDP, data to 2025).
People	218 people born in Japan live in North Korea and 24,000 born in North Korea live in Japan (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 20 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	244 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	**Low**	No goods trade is reported for 2023–2025, so the score is 0. The data cannot tell zero trade from trade that was not reported.
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	**Low**	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

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