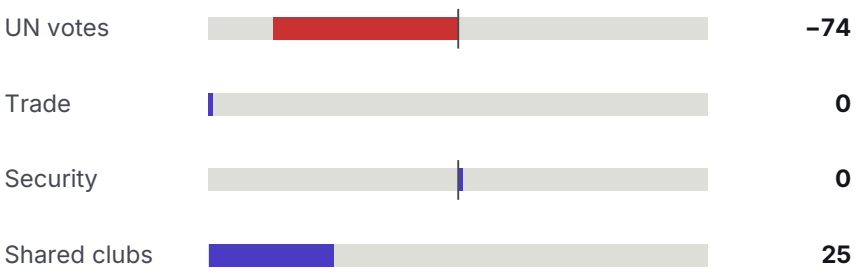
South Korea & North Korea

One peninsula, two states, no peace treaty.

−22

Distant

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

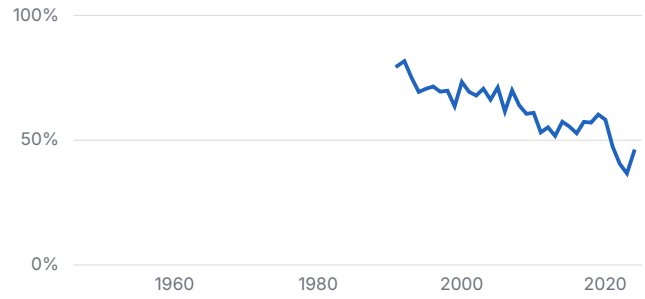


IN SHORT

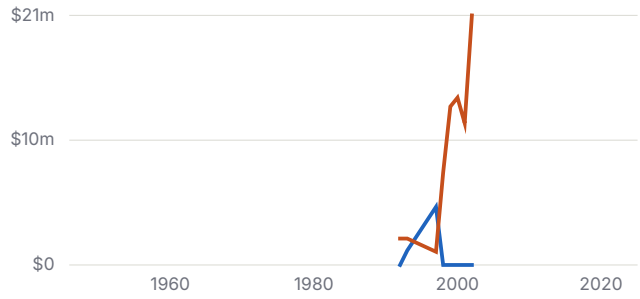
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides, as main parties, most recently in 1953. They were also on opposite sides of a later conflict, most recently in 1973.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 41% (2022–2024), among the lowest either of them has with any country.
- They have no recorded trade in goods.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, South Korea names North Korea more often than the reverse (269 sentences against 104).
- 5,600 people born in South Korea live in North Korea (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)



South Korea sells to North Korea
North Korea sells to South Korea

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on Middle East (89% of votes the same), furthest apart on human rights (38%), against 62% 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 South Korea and North Korea was 41% in 2022–2024. For South Korea, North Korea is the 2nd most distant voting partner out of 191; for North Korea, South Korea is the 49th most distant partner.
Trade	No trade in goods between them is recorded for 2023–2025.
Words	Since 1946, South Korea has named North Korea in 269 sentences of its General Debate speeches; North Korea has named South Korea in 104.
Security	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program records them supporting opposite sides of a third party's armed conflict (South Vietnam, Viet Nam, 1965–1973).
People	5,600 people born in South Korea live in North Korea (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 19 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.

MOMENTS (EDITORIAL CONTEXT, NEVER PART OF A SCORE)

1953	Armistice signed by the UN Command, North Korea and China (South Korea did not sign) ends the fighting of the Korean War
1991	Both Koreas join the UN on the same day
2000	First inter-Korean summit
2018	Panmunjom Declaration

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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