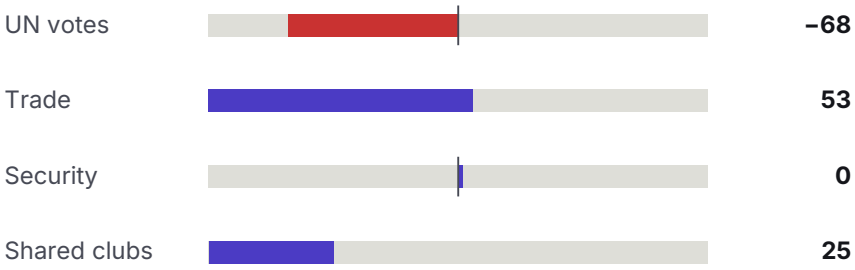
South Korea & Russia

−9

Distant

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

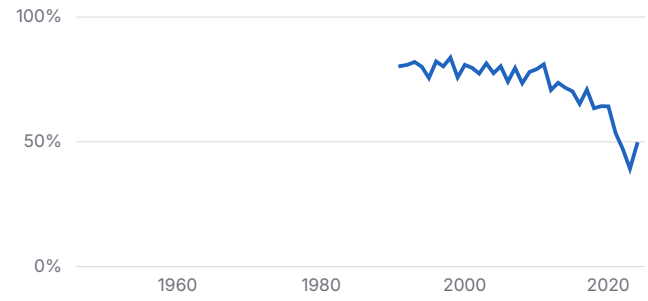


IN SHORT

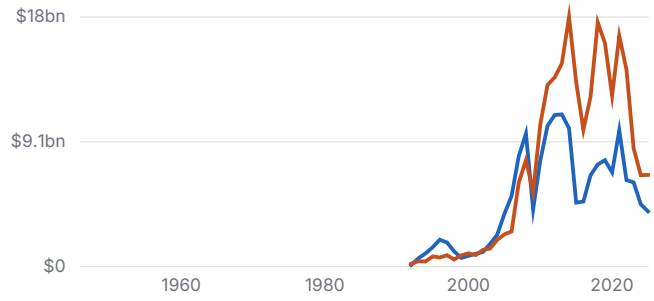
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides of the conflict in North Korea, South Korea, with Russia supporting another party, most recently in 1953. (Russia was then part of the Soviet Union.)
- At the UN their vote agreement is 45% (2022–2024), among the lowest either of them has with any country.
- Trade in goods ($12 billion a year) is modest for Russia, less so for South Korea.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, Russia names South Korea far more often than the reverse (48 sentences against 13).
- 28,000 people born in Russia live in South Korea (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved).

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way



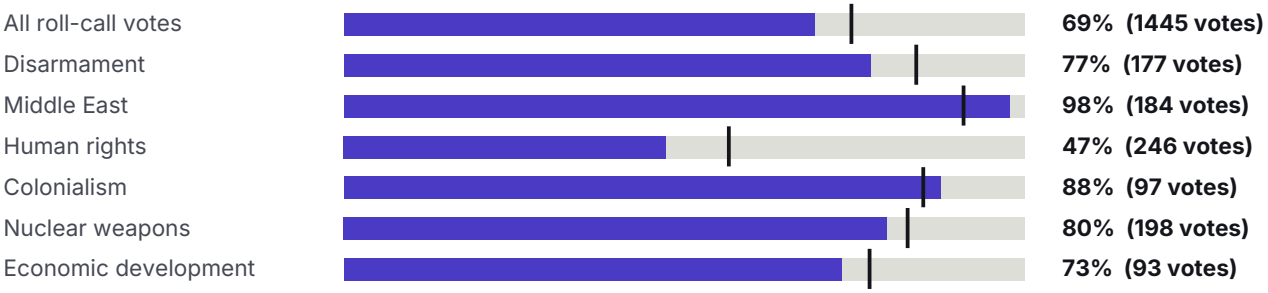
Goods exports each way (US dollars)



South Korea sells to Russia Russia sells to South Korea

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on Middle East (98% of votes the same), furthest apart on human rights (47%), against 69% 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 Russia was 45% in 2022–2024. For South Korea, Russia is the 4th most distant voting partner out of 191; for Russia, South Korea is the 58th most distant partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $12 billion a year in 2023–2025: 1.1% of all South Korea's trade and 1.9% of Russia's.
Words	Since 1946, South Korea has named Russia in 13 sentences of its General Debate speeches; Russia has named South Korea in 48.
Security	The Uppsala Conflict Data Program records them on opposite sides of armed conflict, one of them supporting another party (North Korea, South Korea, 1950–1953).
People	1,800 people born in South Korea live in Russia and 28,000 born in Russia live in South Korea (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 3 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	272 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). South Korea & Russia [scoring rules 0.4 (14 Nov 2026), scores built 2026-11-14]. https://nationsrelations.org/p/kor-rus

Scan to open the live page