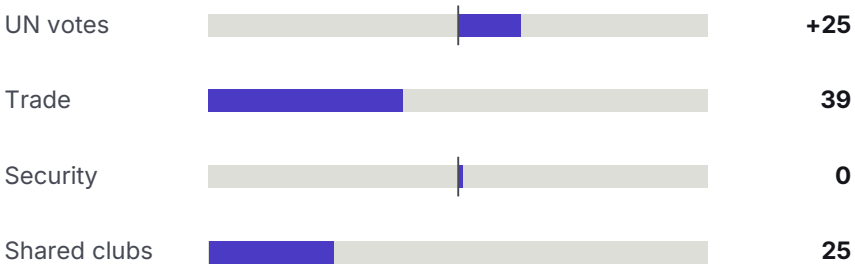
Sri Lanka & Saudi Arabia

+20

Neutral

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

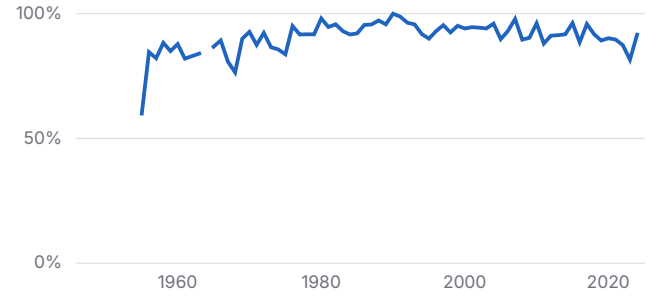


IN SHORT

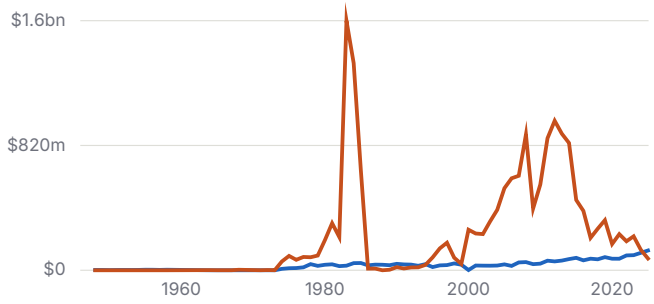
- At the UN their vote agreement is 87% (2022–2024), higher than either of them has with most countries.
- Trade in goods ($259 million a year) is modest for Sri Lanka, much less so for Saudi Arabia.
- 83,000 people born in Sri Lanka live in Saudi Arabia (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved).

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way

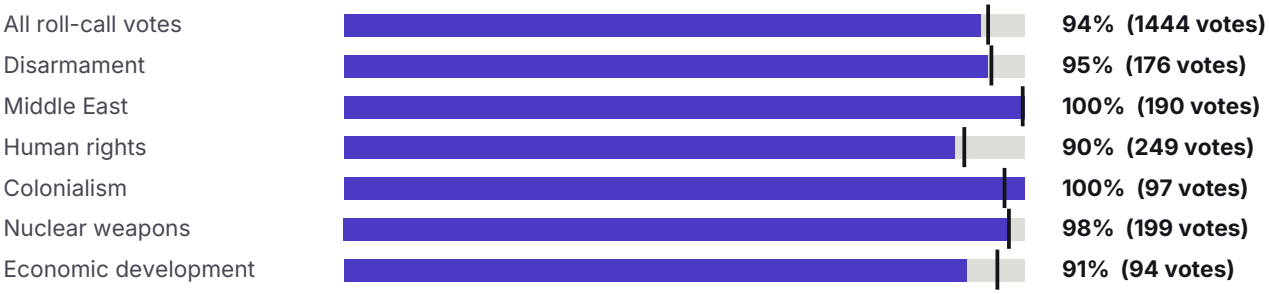


Goods exports each way (US dollars)



Sri Lanka sells to Saudi Arabia Saudi Arabia sells to Sri Lanka

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (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 Sri Lanka and Saudi Arabia was 87% in 2022–2024. For Sri Lanka, Saudi Arabia is the 93rd most distant voting partner out of 191; for Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka is the 45th closest partner.

Trade Trade in goods between them averaged $259 million a year in 2023–2025: 0.9% of all Sri Lanka's trade and less than 0.1% of Saudi Arabia's.

Words	Since 1946, Sri Lanka has named Saudi Arabia in 2 sentences of its General Debate speeches; Saudi Arabia has named Sri Lanka in 1.
Security	No armed conflict between the two governments is recorded since 1946 (UCDP, data to 2025).
People	83,000 people born in Sri Lanka live in Saudi Arabia and 1,400 born in Saudi Arabia live in Sri Lanka (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 3 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). Sri Lanka & Saudi Arabia [scoring rules 0.4 (14 Nov 2026), scores built 2026-11-14]. https://nationsrelations.org/p/lka-sau

Scan to open the live page