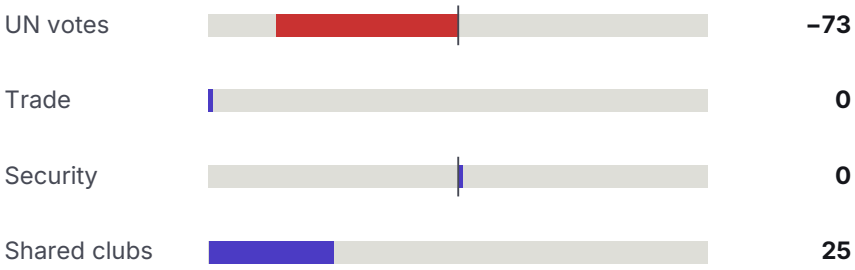
# North Korea & Japan

**−22**

**Distant**

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

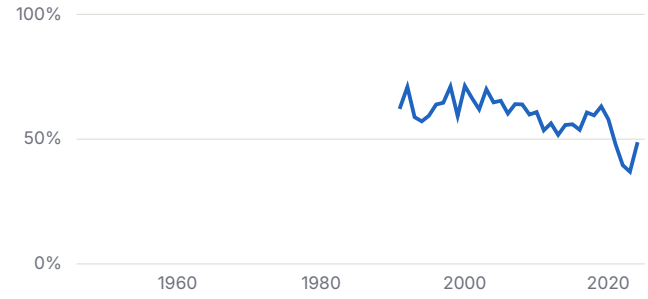



## IN SHORT

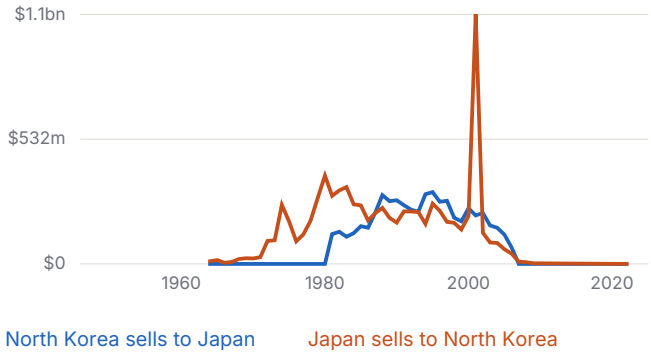
- At the UN their vote agreement is 42% (2022–2024), among the lowest either of them has with any country.
- They have no recorded trade in goods.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, Japan names North Korea more often than the reverse (156 sentences against 67).
- 24,000 people born in North Korea live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

## OVER TIME

**Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way**

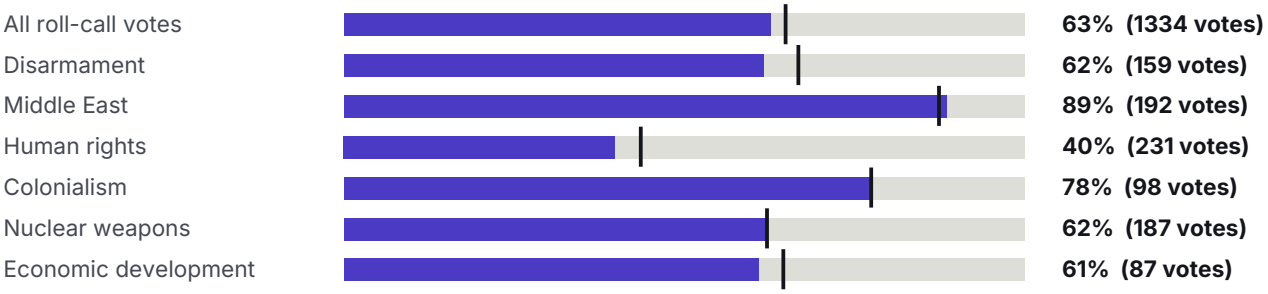



**Goods exports each way (US dollars)**




## 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 North Korea and Japan was 42% in 2022–2024. For North Korea, Japan is the 52nd most distant voting partner out of 191; for Japan, North Korea is the 2nd most distant partner. |
| **Trade** | No trade in goods between them is recorded for 2023–2025. |
| **Words** | Since 1946, North Korea has named Japan in 67 sentences of its General Debate speeches; Japan has named North Korea in 156. |
| **Security** | No armed conflict between the two governments is recorded since 1946 (UCDP, data to 2025). |
| **People** | 24,000 people born in North Korea live in Japan and 218 born in Japan live in North Korea (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**

NationsRelations. (2026). North Korea & Japan [scoring rules 0.4 (14 Nov 2026), scores built 2026-11-14]. https://nationsrelations.org/p/jpn-prk

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