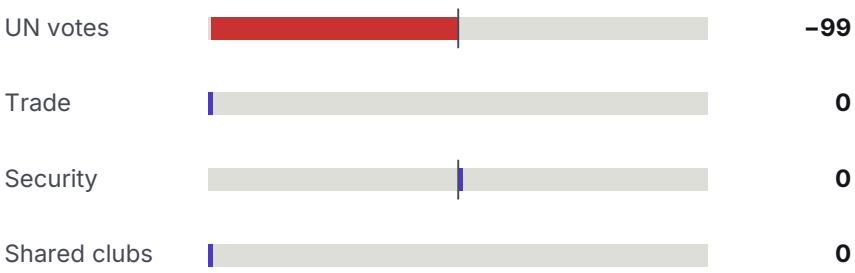
North Korea & United States

−35

Opposed

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



IN SHORT

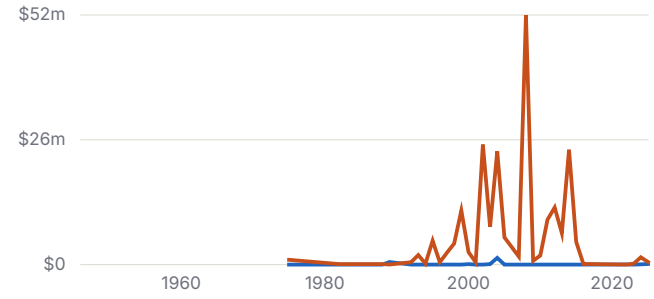
- Armed conflict: UCDP records them on opposite sides of the war in South Vietnam, Viet Nam, each supporting a side, most recently in 1973.
- At the UN their vote agreement is 21% (2022–2024), among the lowest either of them has with any country.
- Trade in goods ($821 thousand a year) is a very small part of either country's trade, under 0.5%.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, North Korea names the United States far more often than the reverse (451 sentences against 37).
- 1,100 people born in the United States 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



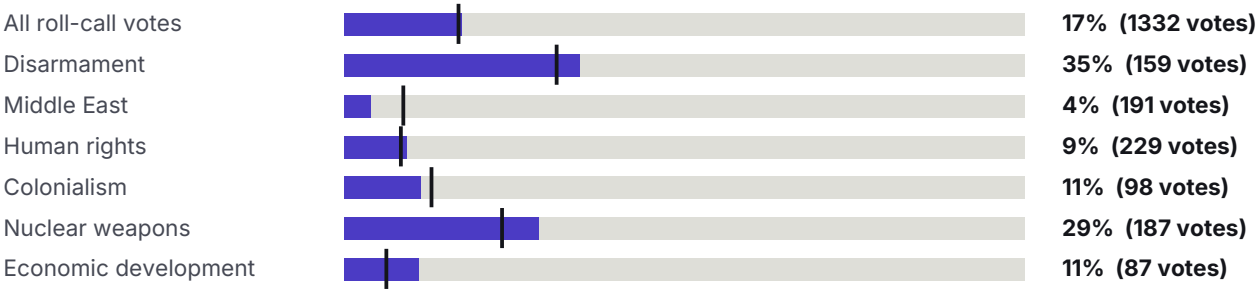
Goods exports each way (US dollars)



North Korea sells to United States · United States sells to North Korea

VOTES TOPIC BY TOPIC (SINCE 2010)

Most alike on disarmament (35% of votes the same), furthest apart on Middle East (4%), against 17% 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 the United States was 21% in 2022–2024. For North Korea, the United States is the most distant voting partner out of 191; for the United States, North Korea is the 2nd most distant partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $821 thousand a year in 2023–2025: less than 0.1% of all North Korea's trade and less than 0.1% of the United States'.
Words	Since 1946, North Korea has named the United States in 451 sentences of its General Debate speeches; the United States has named North Korea in 37.
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	1,100 born in the United States live in North Korea (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met once.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	243 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). North Korea & United States [scoring rules 0.4 (14 Nov 2026), scores built 2026-11-14]. https://nationsrelations.org/p/prk-usa

Scan to open the live page