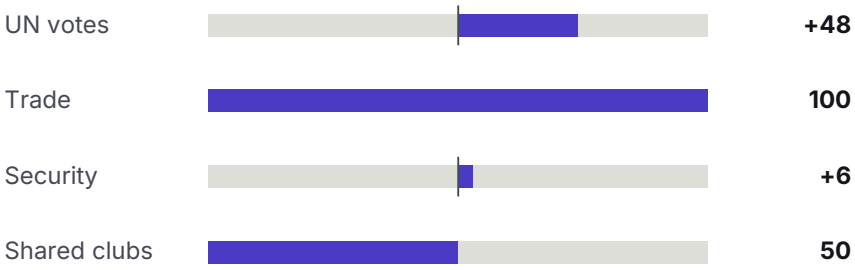
South Africa & Lesotho

+46

Close

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

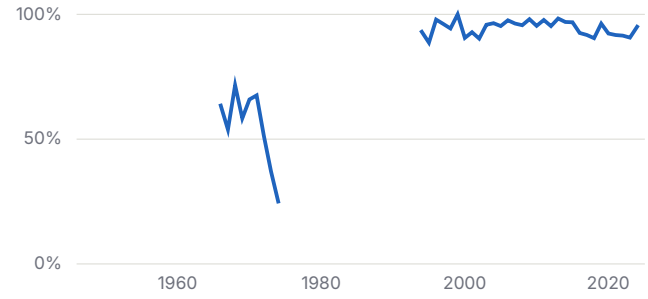


IN SHORT

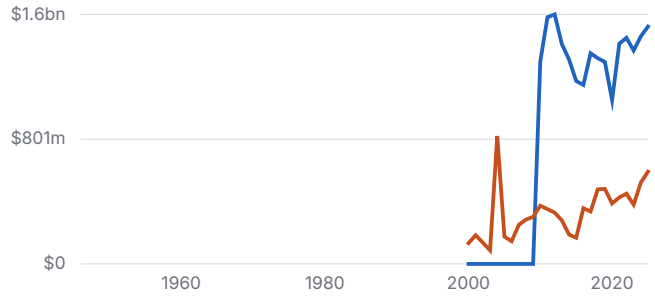
- At the UN their vote agreement is 92% (2022–2024), higher than either of them has with most countries.
- Trade in goods ($1.9 billion a year) is very important for Lesotho, much less so for South Africa.
- In its UN General Debate speeches, Lesotho names South Africa far more often than the reverse (374 sentences against 5).
- 238,000 people born in Lesotho live in South Africa (UN DESA counts place of birth, however long ago they moved).

OVER TIME

Share of recorded UN votes cast the same way

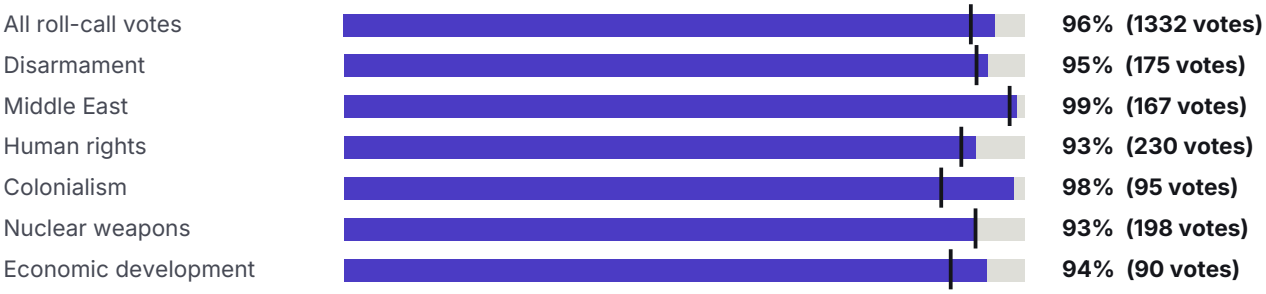


Goods exports each way (US dollars)



South Africa sells to Lesotho Lesotho sells to South Africa

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 South Africa and Lesotho was 92% in 2022–2024. For South Africa, Lesotho is the 22nd closest voting partner out of 191; for Lesotho, South Africa is the 79th closest partner.
Trade	Trade in goods between them averaged $1.9 billion a year in 2023–2025: 0.9% of all South Africa's trade and 76.0% of Lesotho's.
Words	Since 1946, South Africa has named Lesotho in 5 sentences of its General Debate speeches; Lesotho has named South Africa in 374.
Security	No armed conflict between the two governments is recorded since 1946 (UCDP, data to 2025).
People	6,000 people born in South Africa live in Lesotho and 238,000 born in Lesotho live in South Africa (2024, UN DESA).
People	Their national football teams have met 13 times.

HOW SURE WE ARE

UN votes	**High**	248 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
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