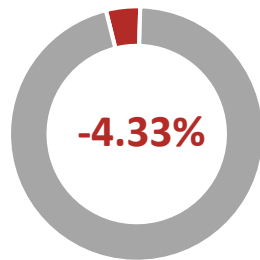


Canada: Mixed Signals from the Great White North

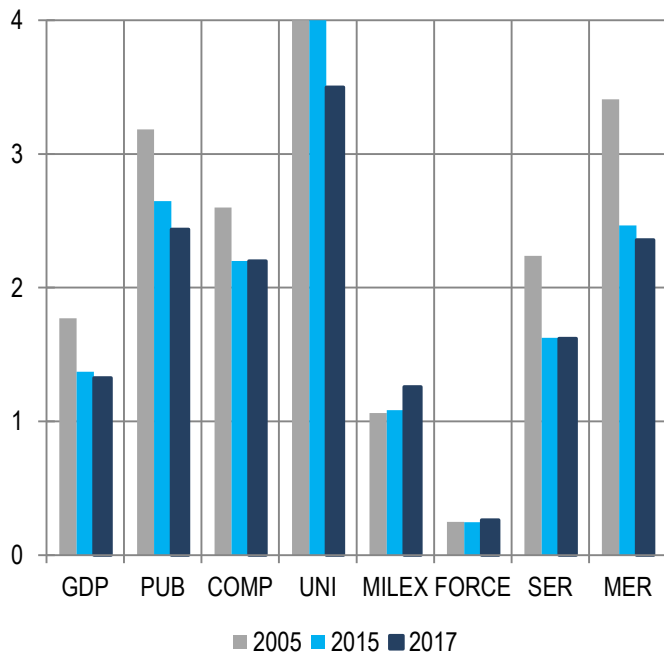
All is not well for Canada in the latest BPSM observation period. This can be seen most prominently in its status as the third biggest power loser based on its own Power Score (-4.3 percent), only faring better than the United Kingdom and Saudi Arabia. Moreover, Canada has lost a rank within the G20 for the first time since the 2009/11 period. Thus, it now has shifted into the weaker half and ranks 11th in 2017. Concerning Power Score and G20 rank, Canada has thus virtually traded places with Italy between 2015 and 2017. The Mediterranean country's success is one of the most surprising findings of our BPSM update, but what are key factors in this development on the part of Ottawa?

Power Shift 2015-2017

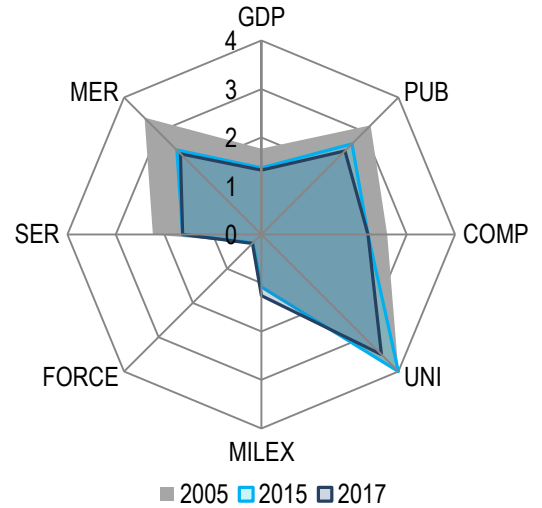


In the military realm, for a start, Canada is well able to claim some gains: After having significantly raised military spending, especially between 2016 and 2017, its relative country shares accordingly increased from 1.08 (2015) to 1.26 percent (2017). This change can be partly attributed to a new political situation on the North American continent: Donald Trump's administration has launched a striking retreat from multilateralism and leadership, spurring Canada to take on a larger global role. Interestingly, Canada has also increased its military personnel in the armed forces in absolute terms and therefore gained – albeit minimal – global shares between 2015 and 2017 (from 0.25 to 0.26 percent).

Canada's Global Shares



Canada's Global Shares



These absolute and relative achievements, however, fail to compensate for losses in other areas. The education and science indicators within the BPSM most notably did not work in Canada's favors over the observation period. While publications saw a steady absolute and relative decline, with country shares going down to 2.44 from 2.65 percent, Canada's number of excellent universities fluctuated over the observed years. As it has lost one top university from the global ranking (from 8 in 2015 to 7 in 2017), its corresponding country shares developed negatively.

In the economic realm, lastly, Canada fared considerably better in absolute than in relative terms. While the BPSM records growth in the respective categories of GDP and both service and merchandise exports, the country shares either stagnated or decreased slightly. Although Canada thus managed to impede a severe power loss in the economic sector – seeing that it also kept its share of Fortune 500 companies stable – it failed to make up for its power deficit in research and education. New political dynamics on the North American continent, however, might for instance shift gears for Canada's development in the military indicators and Canada's Power Score as a whole.

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