

United Kingdom: The Negative Trend Continues

After the United Kingdom had already experienced power losses in the period from 2005 to 2015 with a Power Shift Rate (PSR) of -0.47, this development continued with a PSR of -0.41 for the following two years. London's Power Score (PS) fell from 5.11 in 2015 to 4.70 in 2017. Among the G20 members, only the USA recorded an even bigger loss of power during this period, with a PSR of -0.48. The two states are thus far behind the third-largest loser Saudi Arabia with a PSR of -0.14. If one relates these losses to the country's Power Score, the UK is even the second-largest power loser (ahead of Saudi Arabia) with a drop of -8.02 percent.

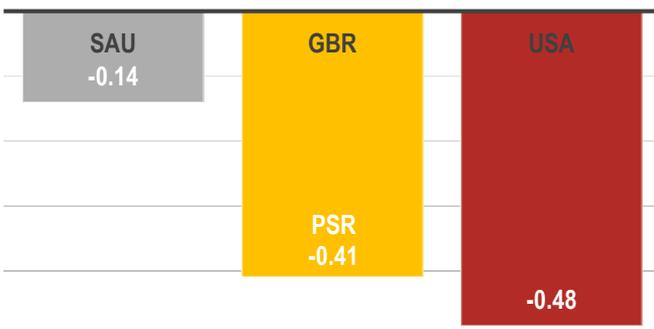
Power Shift 2015-2017



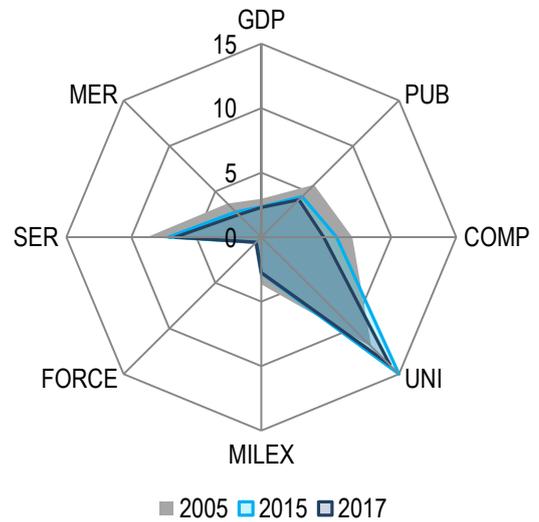
Looking at the individual categories, the UK presents an extensive loss of global shares in all domains examined between 2015 and 2017. Its relative decline is connected to absolute losses in the individual categories: The UK is the only G20 member presenting a negative country change rate of -3.18 percent between 2015 and 2017. Among the eight BPSM indicators, it progressed in only two categories: GDP (PPP) and service exports. As their rates are, however, below the global average, its domestic gains did not translate into international ones, but have even resulted in share losses.

The losses in the Fortune 500 companies' segment is particularly noteworthy, where the number of British firms fell from 29 in 2015 to 24 in 2017. These losses lead to a decrease in its country share from 5.80 to 4.80 percent. In general, there has been an uneven but continuous downward trend in this category.

The Three Greatest Power Losers 2015-17



United Kingdom's Global Shares



In the period from 2005 to 2015, the country thus recorded relative losses in all indicators, except for the top universities – a category in which the UK can proudly present a long prestigious history. The defending of its role as a scientific top dog is made more difficult by the fact that publication figures are slightly declining and are thus more relativized by rising states like India or China.

Despite these losses, Britain has been able to hold its third place among the most powerful G20 countries since 2015. However, the gap to fourth-placed Germany has shrunk, while the gap to second-placed China has grown. As the only G20 member states that presents both relative and absolute losses, the UK is hence one of the greatest power losers of the latest period of observation.

Please cite as:

Center for Global Studies (CGS) (2019). "Bonn Power Shift Monitor: United Kingdom: The Negative Trend Continues", University of Bonn, Bonn.