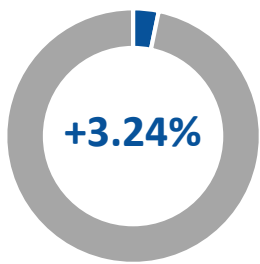


Mexico: Promises of a New Trajectory?

The Bonn Power Shift Monitor records mixed results for the Latin American country: While it boasts a remarkable cross-category growth of 11.75 percent in absolute terms, its PSR of 0.03 between 2015 and 2017 is only just positive. A detailed look at Mexico's power composition across the evaluated indicators offers insights into what could possibly be a new trajectory for the federation: while its slow but steady upturn after the years of economic crisis had been fueled mainly by gains in the categories of armed troops and merchandise exports, Mexico owes its renewed gains between 2015/17 mainly to top universities and service exports.

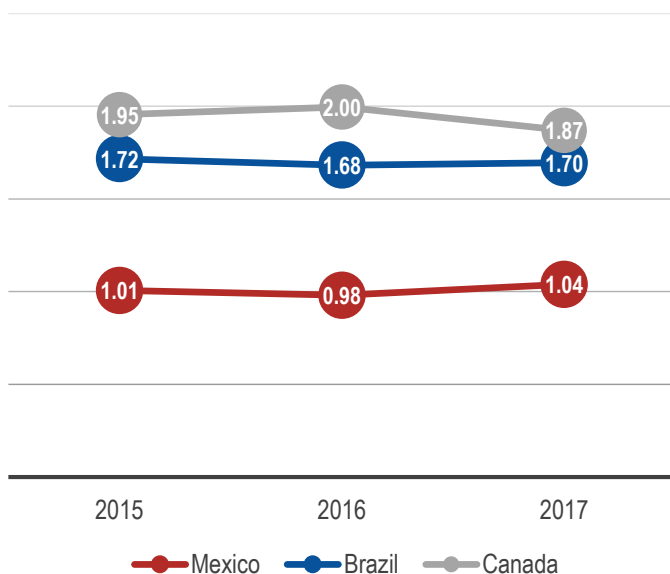
Power Shift 2015-2017



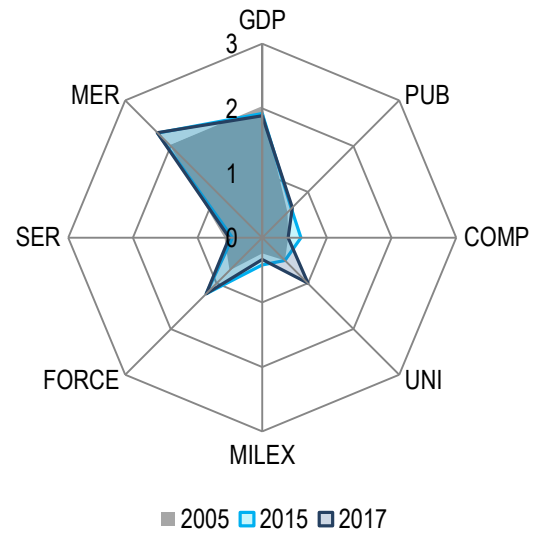
The education and science sector indeed was the main catalyzer for positive change for Mexico in the observation period. Scientific publications have slightly increased in numbers, although they do not yet contribute much to a higher overall Power Score. Regarding universities, however,

Mexico benefits from the addition of the Monterrey Institute of Technology and Higher Education to the QS world ranking, thus increasing its global shares from 0.50 percent to 1.00 percent. An overall number of two distinguished universities does not yet make Mexico competitive with many G20 nations. With universities being hubs of innovation however, it might nonetheless signal a shift in its trajectory. The second indicator responsible for the positive side of Mexico's 2015/2017 development can be found in

Power Trends of Mexico, Brazil and Canada



Mexico's Global Shares



the economic realm: between 2015 and 2017, country shares rose from 0.46 percent to 0.51 percent. It also saw a solid absolute growth within the categories of GDP and merchandise exports, but only managed to uphold its status quo in relative terms.

Other indicators also present a dimmer picture for the Latin American republic. The military sector, for one, displays an overall negative or stagnant development. Mexico's armed forces have not been stocked up in personnel, although the country managed to retain almost identical shares. Military expenditures have decreased, which results in a visible loss of its already small global shares (from 0.42 to 0.34 percent).

Mexico's mixed, yet mildly favorable development singles it out among its northern neighbors, with the US and Canada among the power losers regarding PSR. It cannot, however, offer much in reply to their negative impact on the continent's negative power record in the latest BPSM period. What's more, when compared to the other Latin American nations within the G20, Mexico stands out as the only one to boast a positive PSR within the observation period.

Please cite as:

Center for Global Studies (CGS) (2019). "Bonn Power Shift Monitor: Mexico: Promises of a New Trajectory?"; University of Bonn, Bonn.