

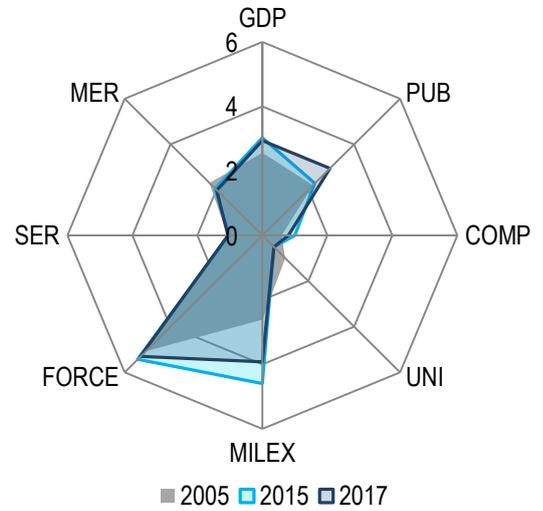
Russia: Moscow's Unsteady Path Continues

While Russia achieved significant international power gains during the decade of 2005/15, Moscow experienced relative losses compared to G20 countries for the latest period of 2015/17, with a Power Shift Rate of -0.06 percent. In comparison, Russia has thus lost 2.41 percent of its power since 2015. However, it must be kept in mind that the Russian Federation was already among the power losers in the phase of 2013/15 and that the absolute power development of the biggest country on earth has turned positive again, with a Country Change Rate of 2.76 percent, compared to -3.27 percent in the period before. Additionally, Russia was able to defend rank nine on our Power Score Ranking.

Power Shift 2015-2017



Russia's Global Shares



A closer look at the categories observed reveals that Russia's absolute gains are mainly due to a boost of its economy, with the GDP and both service and merchandise exports showing strong absolute growth compared to the previous phase. Especially the exports made great leaps, considering that they were decreasing massively during 2013/15. However, those absolute economic gains only translated into relative increases in the category of service exports, with a slightly positive Market Change of 0.03 percent. The profits in this regard are not enough to balance losses in other categories because the further economic developments generally lag the global average. Moreover, Russia has also lost one company on the Fortune 500 list.

The military categories, on the other hand, show the opposite development. While Russia achieved relative as well as absolute gains in both military spending and the number of armed forces during 2013/15, it is now losing power in these categories, both absolutely and relatively, and substantially so in the case of mili-

tary spending. Bearing in mind that Russia traditionally puts a focus on its hard power position and considering that it is the very first time in the data of the Bonn Power Shift Monitor that Moscow decreases its military spending, this development is surprising, even though there has been strong variation in the number of armed forces before.

As for Russia's power in science, we can see a twofold development: while the number of top universities is stagnating at only one, the amount of scientific publications continues to increase substantially and so do the country shares in this category.

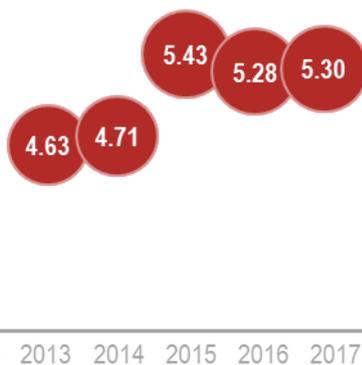
In sum, Russia's general loss in international power is not too surprising. Moscow showed a quite volatile power development for most of the observation time span of the BPSM. Moreover, its economic recovery must be regarded in the context of a very weak performance during 2013/15, making it easier for Russia to achieve absolute gains here. Nevertheless, the cuts in the military categories, especially in military spending, are remarkable and contribute strongly to its relative power loss. With Italy right behind Russia in our power ranking, receiving 0.43 Power Score points less than Moscow in 2017, the world's largest country does not have to fear losing its position soon. If Russia wants to successfully follow its regional and international aspirations, though, it must show a stronger and more sustainable performance.

Russia's Military Expenditures and Armed Forces Personnel

Millex (constant 2017 USD m)



Armed forces personnel (total)



The bubble size displays the total numbers of expenditures (yellow) and armed forces personnel (red). The number indicates Russia's global shares.

Please cite as:

Center for Global Studies (CGS) (2019). "Bonn Power Shift Monitor: Russian Federation: Moscow's Unsteady Path Continues", University of Bonn, Bonn.