

# United States: Winning at Home, Losing Abroad

The United States of America is still and clearly the most powerful country in the world. However, it has been losing international power for the whole-time span from 2005 to 2017. Nevertheless, Washington's relative power loss has decelerated with a

Power Shift Rate of -0.48 percent for the latest 2015/17-phase, compared to -0.62 percent for 2013/15. Moreover, while the USA lost power in absolute terms during the previous period of 2013/15, its domestic score has been growing recently, with a moderate, but clearly positive Rate of Country Change of 1.43 percent.

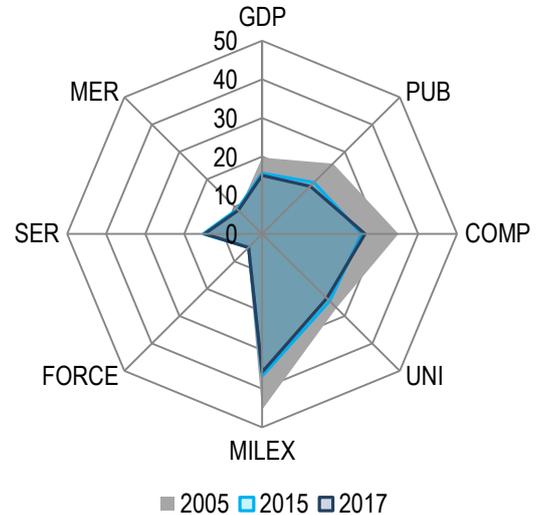
## Power Shift 2015-2017



This positive absolute development is mainly due to the improvement in three categories: merchandise exports, armed forces, and top companies. While all of them decreased absolutely in 2013/15, the United States partly recuperated in each of them during 2015/17. However, only two categories, armed forces and top companies, show growth in absolute figures as well as country shares. Nonetheless, these gains did not suffice to compensate for the relative losses in other categories, especially since Washington lost significantly more international weight concerning GDP as well as merchandise and service exports than in the years before.

But what factors contributed to the US' slower decline pace? First, the relative losses in military expenditures decreased. While the Market Change, which indicates the relative development of single categories, was -3.23 percent for 2013/15, it shrunk to -1.05 percent in the 2015/2017 period. Additionally, as already mentioned, both armed forces and top companies contributed with relative gains as well, while the negative relative development of top universities and the number of scientific publications stayed on the level of the previous period.

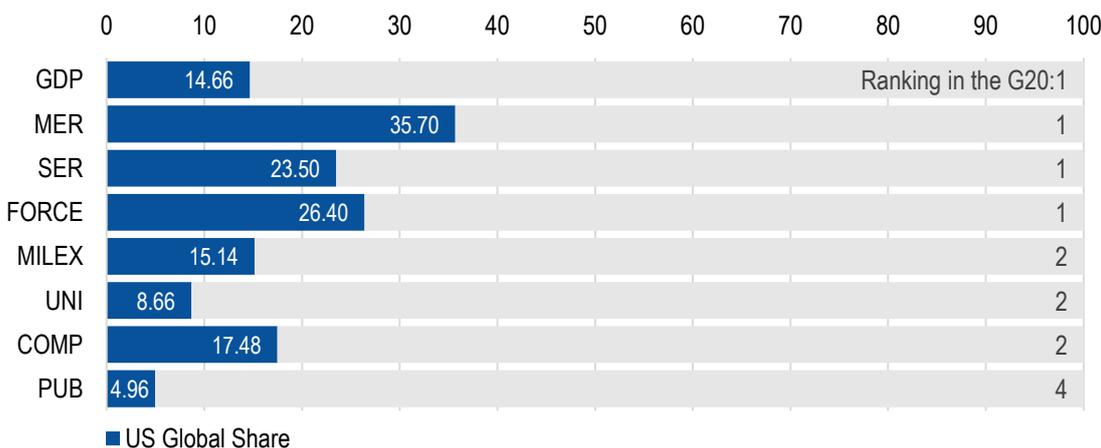
## United States' Global Shares



While the USA was leading in seven out of eight categories in 2005 (all except for the number of armed forces), it only ranks first in three categories in 2017 (service exports, military expenditures and top universities). Most recently, the USA lost the first rank in scientific publications to China.

In conclusion, the most powerful country in the world sends mixed signals. Even though it is still losing power, its power loss is slowing down, and it is recovering domestically. Furthermore, while merchandise exports and the number of top companies are increasing absolutely and the country shares in the latter do as well, Washington faces even bigger relative losses in the economic BPSM categories than before. With the Trump administration causing lots of unexpected upheaval concerning global trade and the relations to China, it is hard to predict the United States' development in the years to come. Although there is still a considerable power gap between the USA and China in 2017, in the face of China's continued rapid power growth Washington must certainly step up its efforts to keep its place at the global top.

## Global Shares of the United States in 2017



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