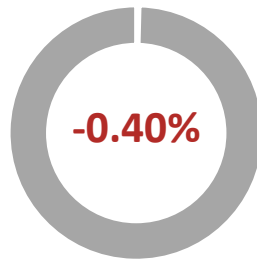


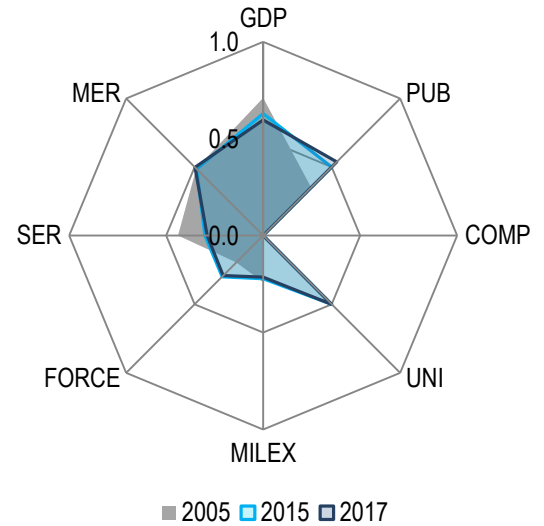
## South Africa: No Big Steps Recorded

South Africa seems to continue its long-term trend at the Bonn Power Shift Monitor. Its Power Shift Rate, expressing its development of relative power compared to the other G20 countries, nearly stagnated for most of the last decade. Meanwhile, the Rainbow Nation's absolute country rate increased steadily. During the most recent observation period of 2015/17, this pattern continues with zero relative power gains but a positive cross-category growth rate. As a result, South Africa continues to hold place 18 in our Power Score Ranking, with only Argentina behind it. Yet there is also an outlier. Although the Rate of Country Change, indicating the absolute growth, was only 0.18 percent during the previous phase of 2013/15, the absolute figures rose by 3.41 percent from 2015 to 2017. This underlines that even though South Africa's relative power is stagnating, its absolute growth accelerated to some extent.

Power Shift 2015-2017



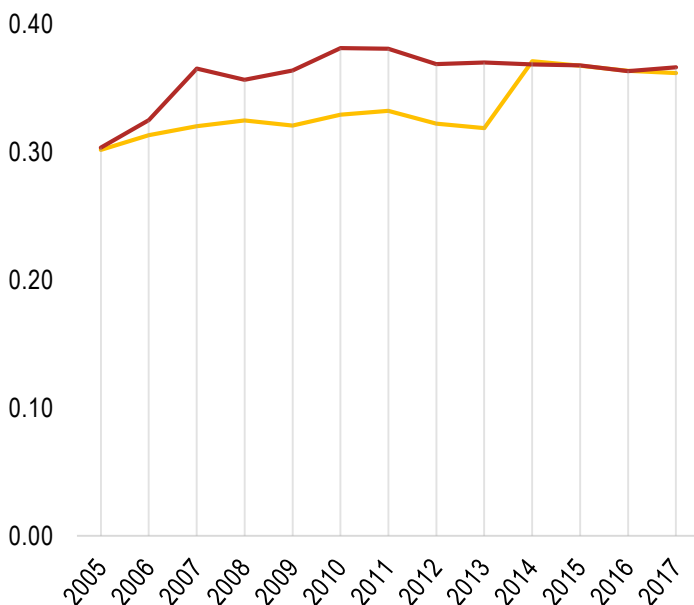
South Africa's Global Shares



A closer look at the categories reveals that this growth is mainly due to economic factors. Even though South Africa faced strong absolute losses in merchandise and service exports in the 2013/15 period, lately it has achieved significant absolute gains in these categories. Additionally, its GDP (PPP) continued to grow with a similar pace than it had previously. However, all these increases could not translate into relative power advances, since many other G20 countries managed to make even stronger gains in those categories.

On the other hand, South Africa also made absolute losses during the most recent period. This can be seen in the military categories. Both, the number of armed forces and the amount of military spending, which were increasing before, decreased lately, albeit moderately. When it comes to top universities and companies, the trend of absolute stagnation of the last periods remains unchanged, as the Indicator Change Rate of 0.00 for both shows. In contrast to this, the number of scientific publications continued to increase albeit at a slower pace than before. With an absolute increase of publication numbers by 13 percent, South Africa gained, however, only 0.04 percent in global shares. Still, the BPSM records a significant upward trend since 2005.

Power Scores of South Africa and Argentina



Despite its increased economic dynamics and the absolute power growth, South Africa still fails in winning international power in significant dimensions. Nevertheless, it is likely that South Africa will be able to defend its place in our Power Score Ranking in the near future, since Argentina, ranking right behind South Africa, is unlikely to increase its power neither any time soon.

*Please cite as:*

Center for Global Studies (CGS) (2019). "Bonn Power Shift Monitor: South Africa: No Big Steps Recorded", University of Bonn, Bonn.