

Germany: A Successful Period

During the most recent period examined by the Bonn Power Shift Monitor, Germany achieved a surprising success: For the first time since the period of 2005 – 2007, Berlin receives a positive Power Shift Rate (0.12). This increase in power was sufficient to let Germany climb up our Power Score ranking, being now on place four (before: five), thus surpassing Japan. From 2015 to 2017 alone, Germany’s power score recovered by 2.6 percent. Additionally, Germany also made substantial absolute gains, with a Country Change Rate of 6.84.

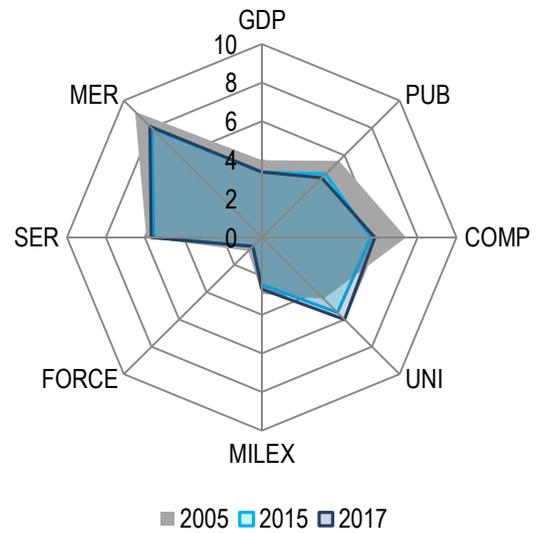
Power Shift 2015-2017



Having a look at the categories, another interesting development can be observed: All indicators except for publications show a positive growth both absolutely and relatively (with the exception of GDP, where Germany could only make absolute gains) during the latest period. The biggest absolute gains can be found in the categories of GDP, service exports and military spending (all of them with Indicator Change Rates of about 10 - 11), while the biggest relative gains stem from the categories of universities (with an outstandingly strong Market Change of 0.50), military spending and companies.

As mentioned before, the only category with a negative trend between 2015 and 2017 is scientific publications. Germany’s absolute publication numbers have been relatively stable since 2012, whereas its global share is on an overall decline since 2005. This raises the question whether Germany has already reached its limits in scientific output. Interestingly, the UK and Japan, both traditional powers in the international system present a similar picture so that the rising India managed to overtake all three of them by 2016 in this category. Although Germany shows a weakening picture regarding publications, it is still a globally leading location for science as indicated by the 12 top universities on the QS world university ranking.

Germany's Global Shares



This marks a strong comeback compared to an overall power loss during the time of 2005 – 2015. However, it should be noted that Germany’s power development has been rather irregular since the beginning of the Power Shift observation period. Berlin often recorded power increases for a short time, only to endure substantial losses right after. Hence, it is uncertain whether Germany will be able to sustain the positive development of this period and whether it has the potential to climb up even further in our ranking of power. Christiane Heidbrink and Kai Beerlink take a closer look at Germany’s “Powerful Comeback” in issue 2/2019 of our Bonn Power Focus.

Please cite as:

Center for Global Studies (CGS) (2019). “Bonn Power Shift Monitor: Germany: A Successful Period”, University of Bonn, Bonn.

Power Shift Rates of Germany

