

Central banks' acts of desperation

As the economic malaise stretches into its seventh year, central bankers are turning to negative interest rates – charging customers to hold their cash – to get business to borrow money and invest in growth

– 0.1%

Japan: Jan 2016.
Money market trading plunges from over ¥22 trillion to just ¥4.68tr (\$43 billion) by April

– 0.5%

Sweden: Feb 2015. Riksbank cuts its benchmark repo rate to boost persistently low inflation

– 0.75%

Denmark: Jul 2012. Sub-zero rates result in some mortgage holders receiving interest payments from banks

– 0.05%

Hungary: Set negative interest rates in March 2016. First emerging market to experiment with sub-zero rates

– 0.4%

European Central Bank: Jun 2014.
Cuts below zero in bid to lift inflation to 2% target

– 0.75%

Switzerland: Jan 2015.
Few banks are passing on negative rates for fear of losing customers

\$7 trillion
Government bonds worldwide offering yields below zero. Investors holding these bonds to maturity won't get all their money back

Zero

– 0.2%

– 0.4%

– 0.6%

– 0.8%

– 1%