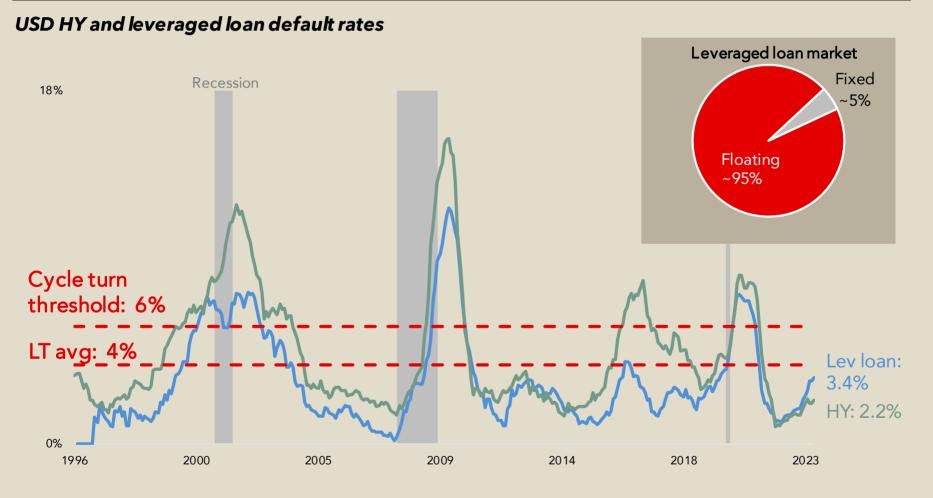


High yield bond default rates typically outpace leveraged loan rates. However, in the current cycle, leveraged loan defaults (which are more exposed to floating rate debt) are outpacing high yield bond defaults. As the Fed approaches the end of its tightening cycle, "how long" rates stay elevated is likely to matter more than "how high" rates ultimately reach as a higher for longer environment will put extended financial pressure on the leveraged loan market.



Source: (1) Moody's, "Default Trends - Global May 2023 Default Report." Default rate is trailing 12 months US speculative grade default rate.

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