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[Floating-Rate Loans: Forward Return Prospects Appear Bright](#)

By: [Andrew N. Sveen, CFA](#), [Christopher Remington](#) | May 27, 2022

Boston - In our view, it remains a compelling time for floating-rate loans, with the current bout of weakness only improving the forward return potential for this specialty asset class. Here are a few observations about how loans are performing this year and how we see the situation in the asset class now.

"Investors are processing a new paradigm of higher inflation and rates — factors that favor investing in floating-rate loans, by the way. The market ebbs, the market flows... buying on the ebbs has historically been rewarding."

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Boston - From January to March, the high yield municipal market posted the second-worst first quarter returns in 40 years, surpassed only by the first quarter of 2020 when the COVID pandemic hit. Now with stable municipal credit quality and higher absolute yields than at the beginning of the year, we are starting to see some value and better opportunities in the high yield municipal space.

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[Japan Makes Strides in Female Board Diversity](#)

By: *Yijia Chen, CFA* | & *Chris Madden* | *March 8, 2022*

Washington - Female representation on the boards of companies in Japan, as well as in some other Asian markets, has improved dramatically in recent years. More Japanese large-cap companies are recruiting women to executive and board positions and improving their gender diversity practices. This is due, in part, to a voluntary directive from the Japanese government for corporations to fill at least 30% of their management positions with women.

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Yijia Chen, CFA
 ESG Quantitative Research
 Analyst
 Calvert Research and
 Management



Chris Madden
 Portfolio Manager
 Calvert Research and
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By: Yijia Chen, CFA | February 2, 2022

Washington - Over the last decade, we have seen numerous studies linking gender diversity in the executive suite and boardroom to enhanced corporate financial performance. Research and metrics on ethnic diversity, however, still lag behind gender research.

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Yijia Chen, CFA
 ESG Quantitative Research
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 125 Old Broad Street
 London, EC2N 1AR
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