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Masataka Kunugimoto is the Joint Head of APAC Equity Research and Head of global autos & auto parts research. He was the top-rated autos sector analyst in the 2014 and 2016 Nikkei Veritas rankings and was also the top-rated autos sector analyst in the Institutional Investor rankings in 2014-2019. Masataka began covering US carmakers in 2016, and has thereby gained a more precise understanding of competitive dynamics in the industry. Prior to assuming coverage of Japanese automakers in 2010, Masataka covered the Japanese auto parts and tire industry in 2000-2007 and was voted the top auto parts sector analyst in the Institutional Investor Rankings for two straight years (2006-2007). He graduated from Keio University's Faculty of Economics in 2000, received an MBA from Harvard Business School in 2009, and worked as an M&A banker before returning to research in 2010.