

## Tokyo rubber futures gain ground as equity prices firm (May 31)

TOKYO, May 31 (Reuters) – Benchmark Tokyo rubber futures rose on Friday, recovering from a three-week low hit a day earlier, helped by a rebound in equities and a retreat in the yen.

**FUNDAMENTALS\*** The benchmark Tokyo Commodity Exchange (TOCOM) rubber contract for November delivery traded 2.3 percent higher at 263 yen per kg as of 0041 GMT.\* The contract on Thursday fell as low as 257 yen, the weakest since May 7, as a sell-off in the Tokyo stock market fuelled views of worsening demand outlook and triggered selling by funds.\* The U.S. auto industry is expected to report sales growth of more than 6 percent in May, shaking off disappointing results in the previous month as consumers still headed to dealer lots to buy new cars and trucks. Sales data is due on Monday.

**MARKET NEWS\*** The U.S. dollar traded at around 101 yen on Friday after hitting a three-week low below 100.50 yen on Thursday.\* Japan's Nikkei share average gained ground on Friday after falling more than 5 percent to a five-week low the day earlier.\* Crude oil futures ended mixed on Thursday, with Brent falling on a weak global economic outlook and U.S. crude lifted by optimism about the Federal Reserve's stimulus program.

**DATA EVENTS\*** The following data is expected on Friday: (Time in GMT)0500 Japan Construction orders0500 Japan Housing starts0530 India Q1 GDP0600 Germany Retail sales0645 France Consumer spending0900 Euro zone Inflation0900 Euro zone Unemployment rate1230 U.S. Personal income1230 U.S. Personal consumption1345 U.S. Chicago PMI(Reporting by Risa Maeda; Editing by Ed Davies)Reuters