

Tokyo futures down, tracking oil and shares

TOKYO, Nov 18 (Reuters) – Key Tokyo rubber futures fell 2.2 percent early on Friday after rising more than 3 percent in the previous session as declines in oil and share prices hurt sentiment.

FUNDAMENTALS

* The key Tokyo Commodity Exchange rubber contract for April delivery 0#2JRU was down 6 yen at 272.6 yen per kg as of 0045 GMT.

The benchmark contract rose 9.3 yen to settle at 278.6 yen (\$3.62) per kg on Thursday after rising as much as 3.9 percent to a one-week high, on speculative buying ahead of a meeting of top producing countries on ways to support prices.

* On Thursday, the most active Shanghai rubber futures contract for May delivery rose 845 yuan to finish at 25,850 yuan per tonne.

* Oil prices tumbled on Thursday, with U.S. crude dropping 4 percent as investors booked profits a day after a surge to five-month highs.

* The dollar was steady near 77.00 yen, with investors wary of further Japanese action in the wake of the massive \$100 billion intervention on Oct. 31.

MARKET NEWS

* The U.S. auto industry will grow slowly, with next year's sales possibly rising slightly from 2011, a top General Motors Co executive said on Tuesday.

* Toyota Motor Corp Sales President Jim Lentz sees 2011 U.S. auto sales between 12.6 million and 12.7 million. He said he expects 2012 U.S.

auto sales to rise to 13.6 million.

* U.S. auto sales may have their strongest month of 2011 in November, spurred by consumers' growing need to replace aging cars and trucks and a wider selection on dealer lots, according to a study released on Thursday.

* The Nikkei share average fell on Friday, mirroring slides in U.S. and European stocks as global markets anxiously watch the latest developments in the euro zone.

DATA EVENTS

* The following data is expected on Friday: -1500 U.S. API monthly report Oct -2000 U.S. USDA-Cattle on Feed Nov -2000 U.S. USDA-Cattle Placed on Fd Oct -2000 U.S. USDA-Cattle Marketed Nov -2030 U.S. CFTC commitment of traders data Weekly