

June 4, 2023. I wrote the Prompt below. Every subsequent word was written by Google Bard and is reproduced here with no changes. -Ian Heller

Prompt: How has Grainger performed recently compared to stock market expectations?

Grainger has outperformed stock market expectations in recent quarters. In the first quarter of 2023, the company reported sales of \$4.1 billion, up 12.2%, or 14.5% on a daily, constant currency basis, and diluted EPS of \$9.61, up 36.0% compared to the first quarter of 2022. Analysts were expecting sales of \$3.9 billion and EPS of \$9.40.

In the fourth quarter of 2022, Grainger reported sales of \$3.9 billion, up 16.9%, or 20.3% on a daily, constant currency basis. Diluted EPS of \$8.27 was up 46.4% versus the third quarter of 2021. Analysts were expecting sales of \$3.8 billion and EPS of \$8.16.

The company's strong performance has been driven by a number of factors, including:

- Strong demand from industrial customers
- Increased prices
- Cost savings

Grainger has also been investing in its business, including expanding its e-commerce capabilities and opening new distribution centers. These investments are expected to help the company continue to grow in the future.

As a result of its strong performance, Grainger's stock price has outperformed the market in recent quarters. The stock is up about 20% year-to-date, compared to a 10% decline in the S&P 500.

However, there are some risks to Grainger's future performance. These include:

- Rising inflation
- Supply chain disruptions
- Competition from Amazon Business

Despite these risks, Grainger is well-positioned for continued growth in the future. The company has a strong track record of performance, a large customer base, and a diversified product offering.