

# Nordic Vnr Services

Vnr Statistics of the Year 2024

## Contents

Introduction .....	3
The Vnr Service .....	3
VnrWiki.....	4
Feedback .....	4
Statistics of the year 2024 .....	5
The amount of valid Vnrs .....	5
Status distribution .....	6
New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes.....	7
Locked and unlocked Vnrs .....	8
Parallel imported products .....	9
The most common countries and country combinations of Vnrs of parallel imported products.....	9
Country combinations of Vnrs .....	10
Vnr Data country by country .....	13
Denmark.....	13
Finland.....	16
Iceland.....	18
Norway.....	20
Sweden .....	22
Pharmaca – Catalyzing Intelligence for Health .....	24
Pharmaca serves customers as the Nordic Number Centre.....	24

# Introduction

The Vnr statistics is a summary of the changes and transactions in the Nordic Vnr database during the year 2024. This annually published document of statistics contains information about all Nordic countries: Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden. Country specific data is presented starting from page 13.

Overall, the year 2024 was fairly similar to the previous ones. The amount of new Vnrs assigned continued to increase from the year 2023. There was 8,6 % increase in the number of new Vnrs in 2024 compared to 2023. The number of marketing authorization holders increased by 2,4 % compared to the previous year. Altogether there were 10 946 trade names with valid Vnrs at the end of 2024. These Vnrs belonged to 885 different marketing authorization holders.

## The Vnr Service and the new Vnr Hub

Pharmaceutical companies can order Nordic Article Numbers (Vnrs) electronically 24/7 by using the Vnr Service. Vnr orders are handled within three working days. Companies can see the real-time situation of their Vnr data in all Nordic countries on-line and utilize different kinds of reports of their products. Vnr services are offered for companies and authorities in three languages: English, Swedish and Finnish.

Vnr Service requires a user-specific username and password, which can be obtained by filling out the registration form in [vnr.fi](http://vnr.fi). Username and password are for personal use only. The Vnr Service had about 1 900 registered users from more than 600 companies at the end of 2024. Approximately 500 users logged in to Vnr Service more than 20 times during 2024. Approximately 20 new user IDs or changes to user information (e.g. due to change of employer) were requested weekly. The mailbox [vnr@vnr.fi](mailto:vnr@vnr.fi) received about 30 emails daily, requesting changes to existing Vnrs or other Vnr related information. The number of emails has increased significantly during the past few years.

In September 2024, Pharmaca Health Intelligence launched the new Vnr Hub Service, which will gradually replace the Vnr Service. In the first phase, price notifications for the Finnish market could be done in the Vnr Hub. The functions of the Vnr Service will be transferred to the new Vnr Hub over the coming years.

## Product codes

The linkage between Vnrs and product codes is very important. New product codes for a Vnr can be added with a product code notification. A different product code can be added to each country where the Vnr is used and one Vnr can have more than one product code in each country at the same time (at the moment usually 1-4). At the end of 2024 there were about 64 500 product codes in the database. The total number of product codes has increased by approximately 2500 compared to the previous year. Most of the product codes have been added to Vnrs in Finland.

From September 2022, pharmaceutical companies have also been able to add primary package product codes for Finnish market in the Vnr Service. We have about a total of 900 primary package product codes in Vnr Service now.

## VnrWiki

The VnrWiki (<http://wiki.vnr.fi>) was established in April 2013. Nordic guidelines and country specific information are published and updated there for easy and fast access.

In 2024 the country clients made some updates to the country specific documents.

VnrWiki had about 7 000 visits in 2024, which is somewhat less than in 2023. Most of the visitors were from Finland (17 %), Sweden (13 %) and the United States (11 %). The rest of the top five countries were Denmark (7 %) and India (5 %).

## Feedback

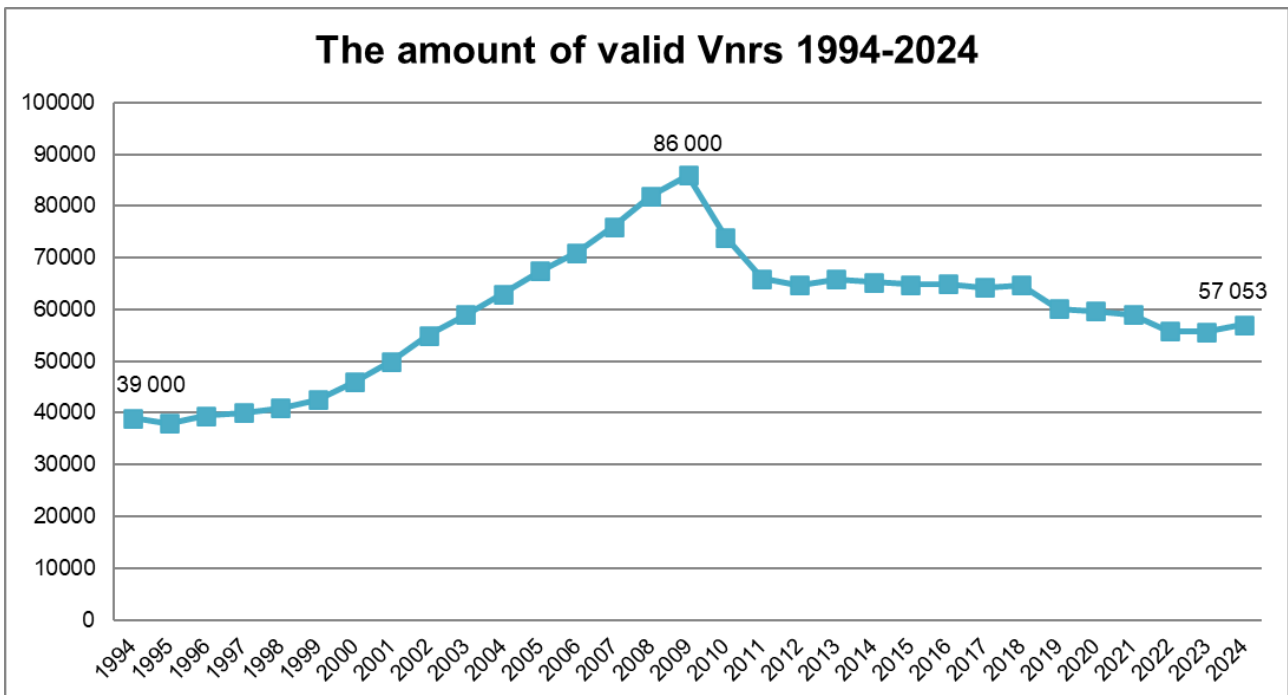
All suggestions and comments are important and appreciated in developing this annual statistics document. Please send feedback and questions to [vnr@vnr.fi](mailto:vnr@vnr.fi).

# Statistics of the year 2024

## The amount of valid Vnrs

The amount of valid (all except withdrawn) Vnrs increased evenly until 2009 (Picture 1). When the Vnr administration was transferred to Pharmaca in 2010, companies were asked to check their Vnr data. The revision of Vnr data and status information continued thereafter, which led to the decreasing trend in the amount of valid Vnrs. After 2011 the change rate evened out to a +/- 2 % change until the year 2019, which saw a 7,6 % decrease (4 587 Vnrs). The years 2020 and 2021 had a change of about -1 %, whereas in the year 2022 there was a larger decrease of 5,5 %. At the end of 2024 there were 57 053 valid Vnrs, with a 2,4 % increase (1 352 Vnrs) in the amount of Vnrs compared to the previous year.

Picture 1.



## Status distribution

The status of a valid Vnr can either be assigned, MA (only used in Finland) or on market. The status of the Vnrs used in several Nordic countries can differ between the countries.

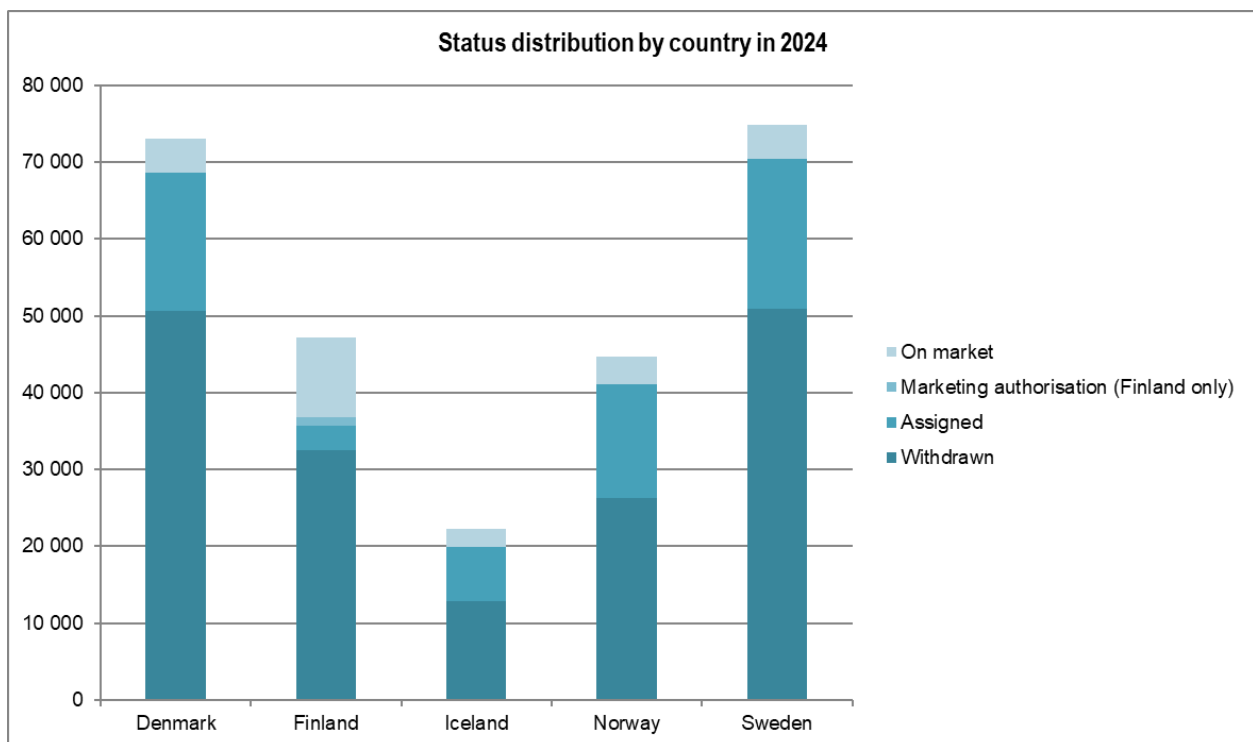
2010-2013 there were 4 different Vnr statuses:

- **Assigned** assigned Vnr is valid.
- **MA** Vnr has marketing authorization, but is not yet or not anymore on the market. From 2013 the status MA has only been used in Finland.
- **On market** The product is on the market.
- **Withdrawn** Vnr cannot be used anymore. Vnr is not valid. Information for withdrawn Vnrs is not updated.

At the end of 2024, 33,2 % of the valid Vnrs had the status “on market” in one or more countries (18 941 Vnrs). There were 98 211 Vnrs in the database which were withdrawn from all countries, which is 3,2 % more than in 2023.

In 2024 most Vnrs were in use in Sweden (24 018 Vnrs) and Denmark (22 452 Vnrs), while in Iceland there was only 9 468 Vnrs in use (Picture 2). Status distribution of Vnrs varies slightly between countries. Country specific data is presented starting from page 133.

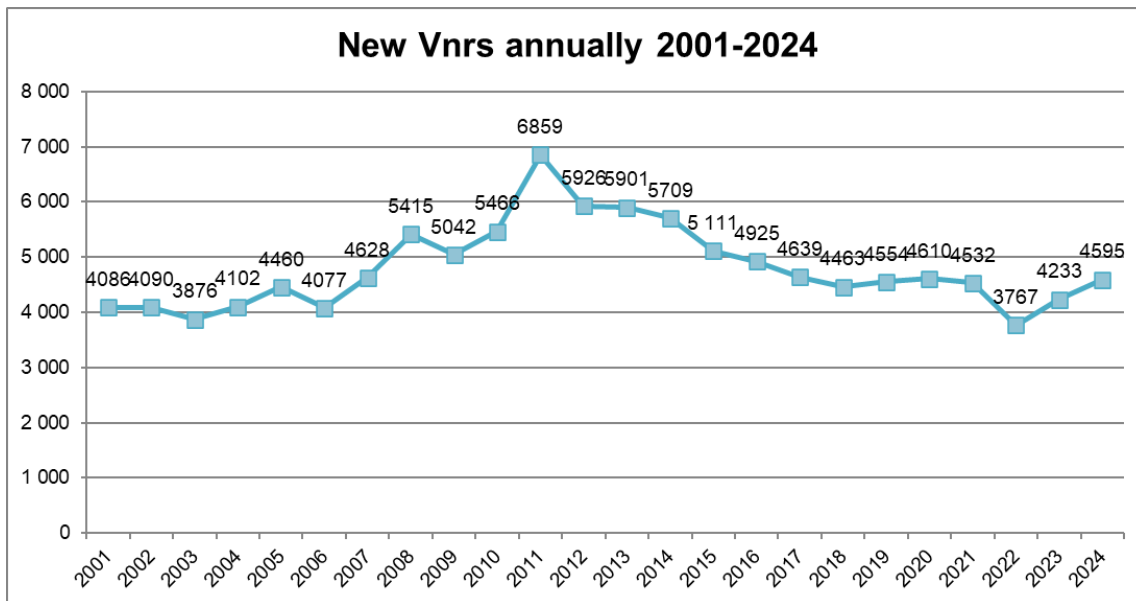
Picture 2.



## New and withdrawn Vnrs and status changes

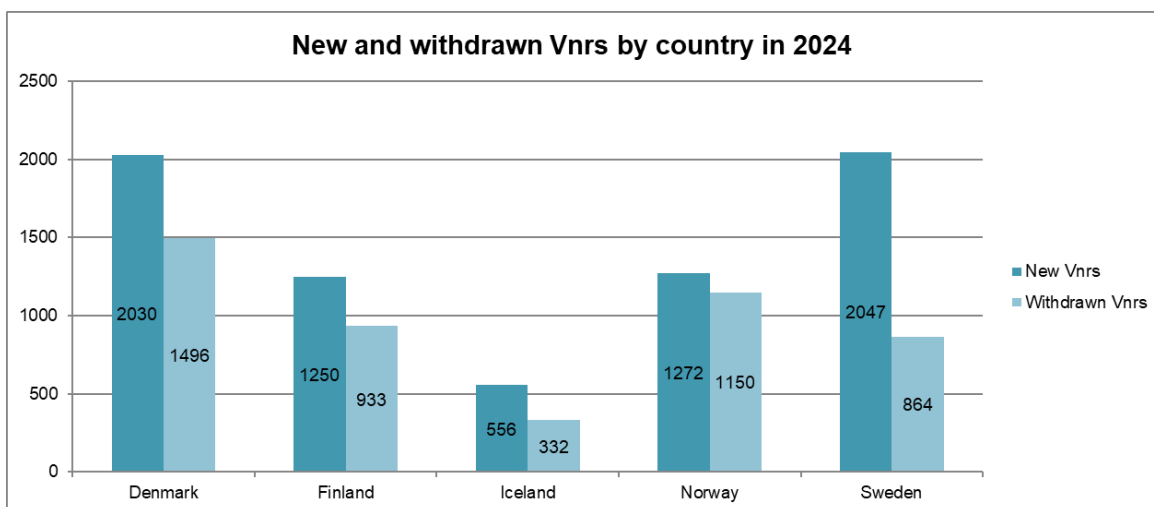
The amount of new Vnrs started to increase in 2006 (Picture 3). Between 2006 and 2011 the yearly amount of valid new Vnrs increased 68 %. After the exceptional year 2011 the decreasing trend continued for 9 years. The year 2024 continued with a noticeable rise in the number of new Vnrs (8,6 %) compared to 2023. In the previous year 2023 there were 12,4 % more new Vnrs than in 2022. In picture 3 every Vnr is taken into account only once.

Picture 3.



7 155 new Vnrs were assigned in 2024. Most of the new Vnrs were assigned to be used in Denmark and Sweden (Picture 4). 4 775 Vnrs were changed to the status withdrawn during 2024. A big portion of the withdrawals were made in Denmark (1 496 Vnrs).

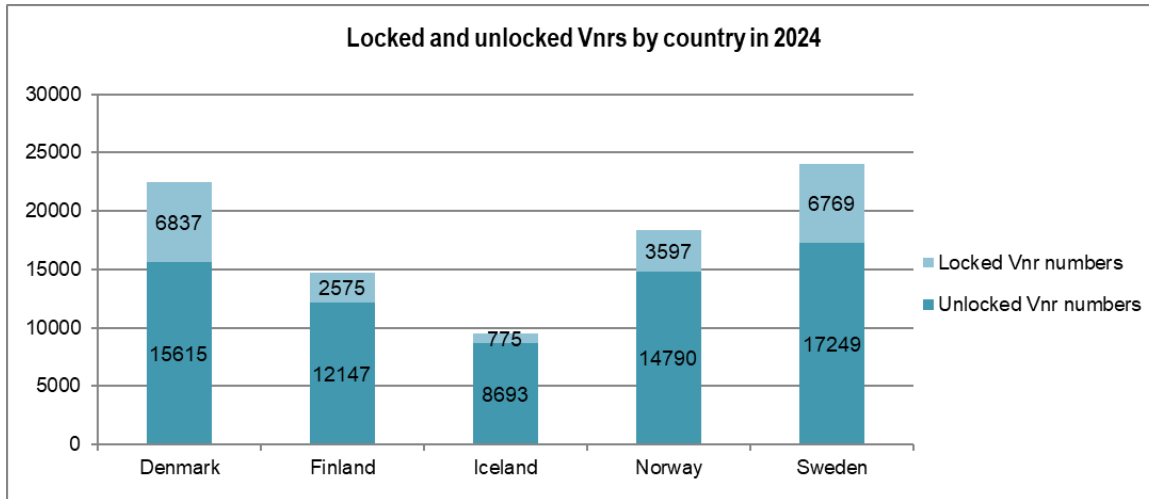
Picture 4.



## Locked and unlocked Vnrs

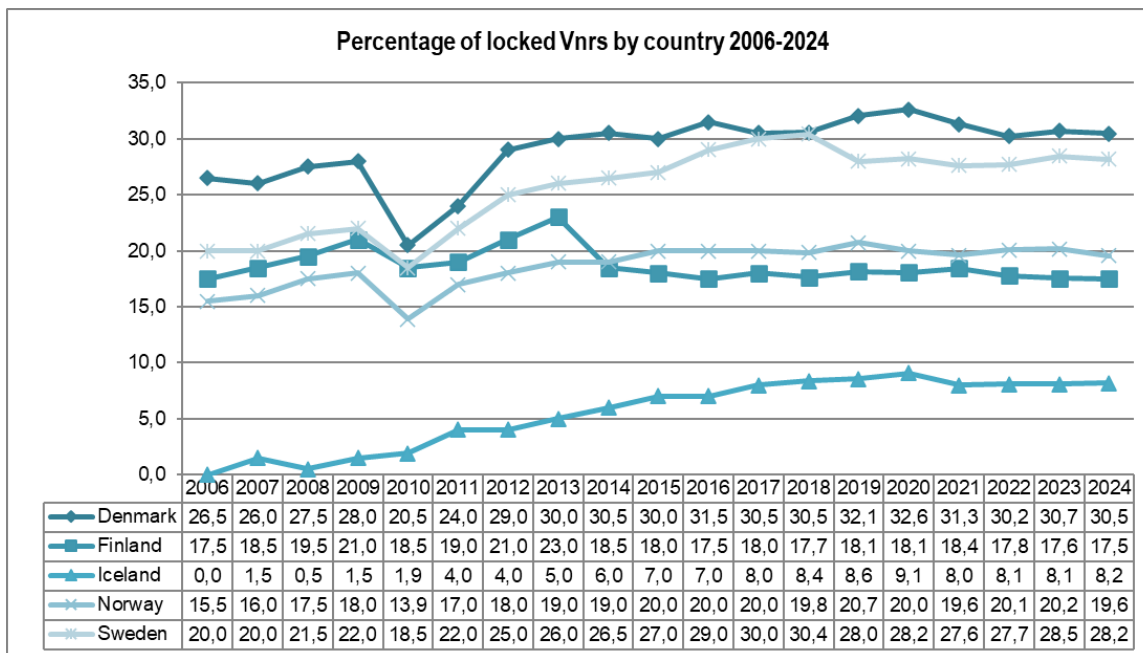
The terms locked and unlocked Vnrs were taken into use in 2013. These specify for which markets a certain Vnr can be used and replace the old terms national and common Vnrs. In picture 5 the portion of locked and unlocked Vnr numbers is shown by country.

Picture 5.



The percentage of locked Vnrs in 2024 changed between -0,6 % (Norway) and 0,1 % (Iceland) compared to the previous year 2023 (Picture 6).

Picture 6.



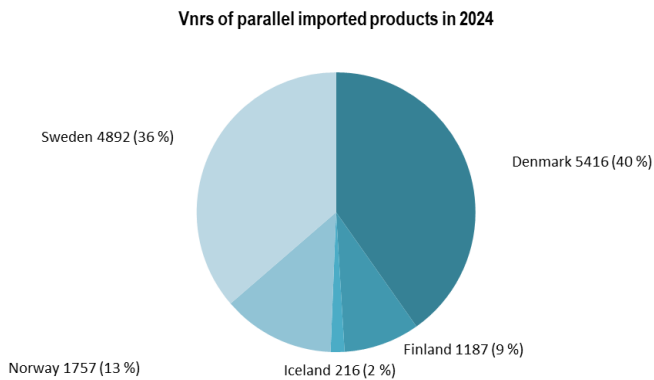


## Parallel imported products

There were 13 468 Vnrs of parallel imported products in the Nordic countries in 2024. There was a considerable increase (4 %) in the number of parallel imported products compared to 2023 which had a 4 % decrease from 2022. The year 2022 had a 6 % decrease from 2021, while the year 2021 only decreased 1 % from 2020. In the year 2019 there was a noticeable decrease of 9 % compared to 2018. Until 2018 there was an increase in parallel imported products for several years.

Denmark had the most parallel imported products in 2024 (5 416 Vnrs). Previously Sweden had the most parallel imported products from 2013 to 2022. Otherwise, the ratios between the countries stayed relatively similar to 2023 (Picture 7), with Norway decreasing its share, and others increasing.

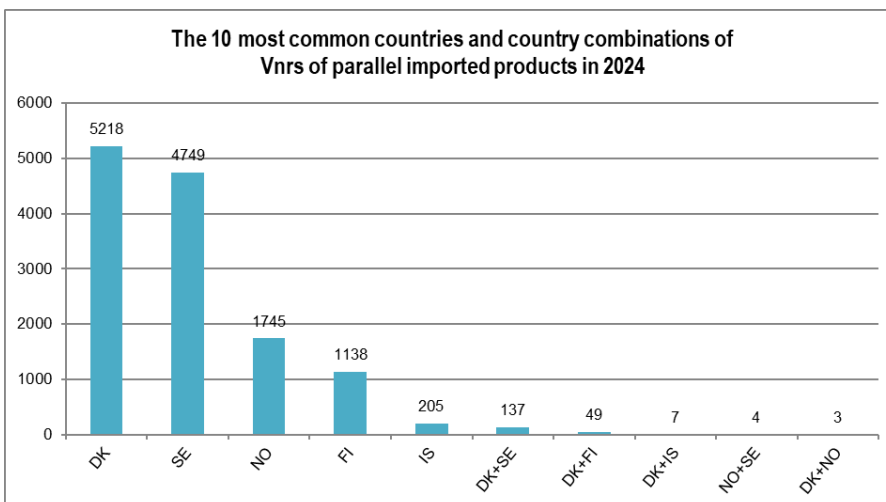
Picture 7.



## The most common countries and country combinations of Vnrs of parallel imported products

Most of the parallel imported products are country specific (Picture 8). In 2024 the most common country combination was again the combination of Denmark and Sweden.

Picture 8.



## Country combinations of Vnrs

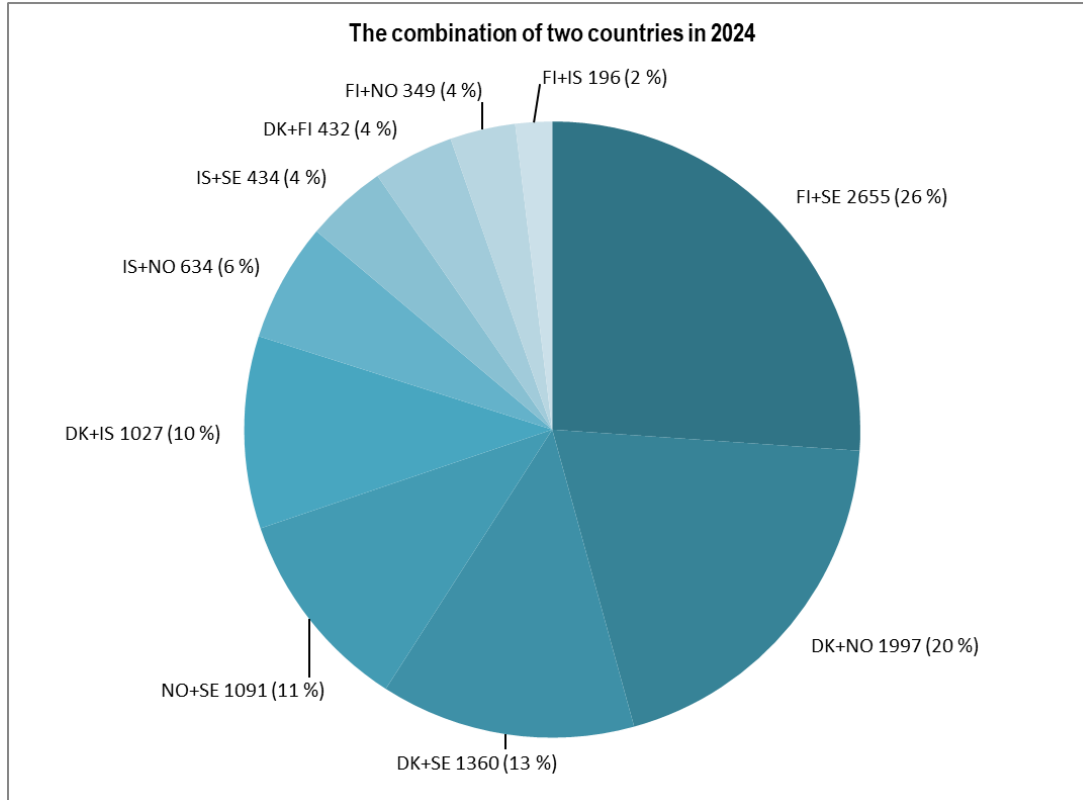
The amount of Vnrs with country combinations of two, three, four and five countries in 2024 are shown in Table 1.

Table 1.

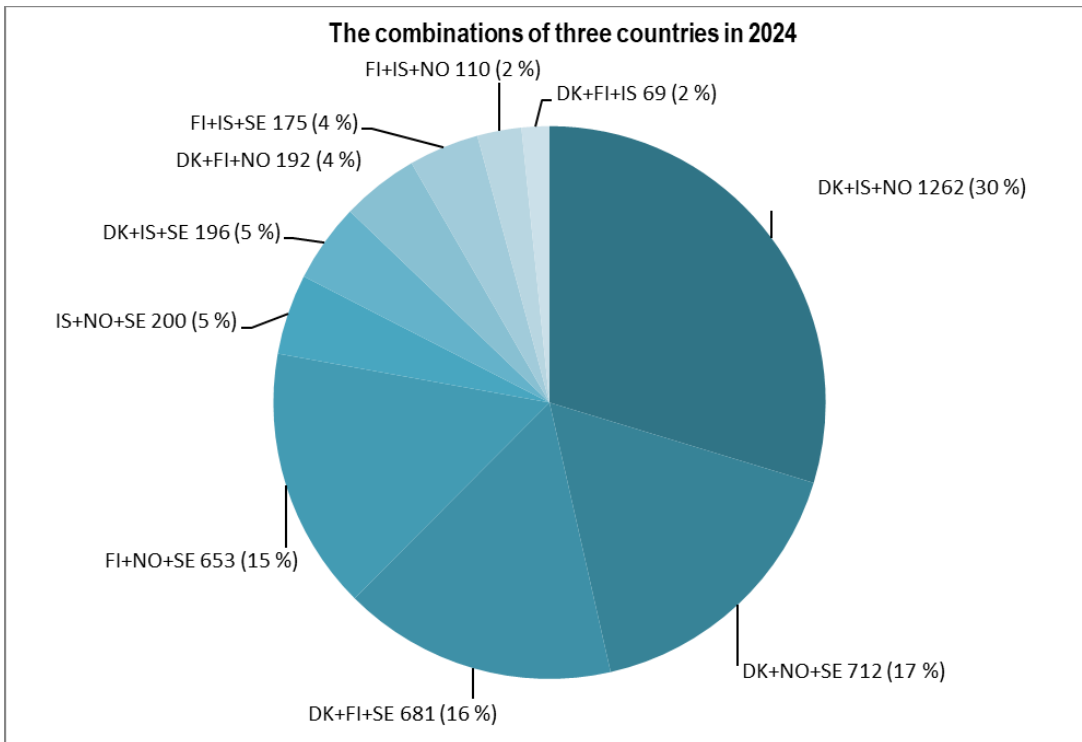
The amount of Vnrs for different country combinations in 2024	
<b>2 countries</b>	10 175
<b>3 countries</b>	4 250
<b>4 countries</b>	2 173
<b>5 countries</b>	1 700

There were only slight changes in the most common country combinations between 2023 and 2024. As before, Finland and Sweden was the most common combination of two countries (Picture 9). The most used combination of three countries (Denmark, Iceland and Norway) was the same as in 2023 and 2022, (Picture 10). The combinations of four and five countries are visualized in Picture 11. (N.B. The country combinations of Vnrs do not reflect the situation regarding the actual packages. The packages can be the same or different regardless of a common Vnr.)

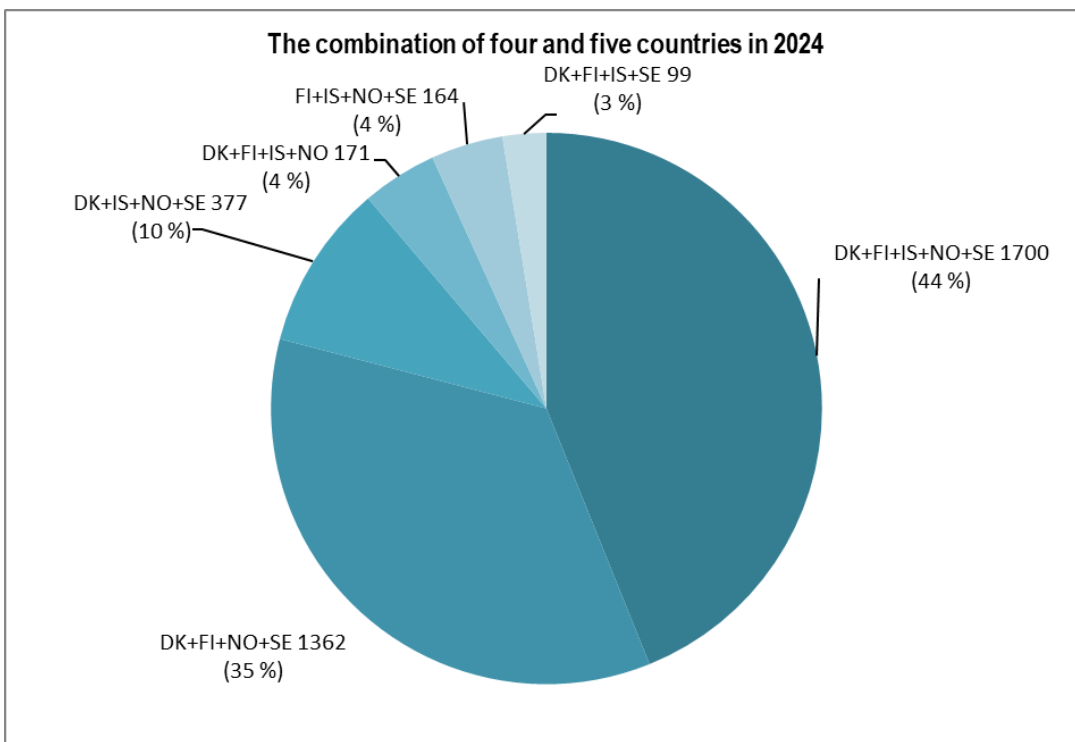
Picture 9.



Picture 10.

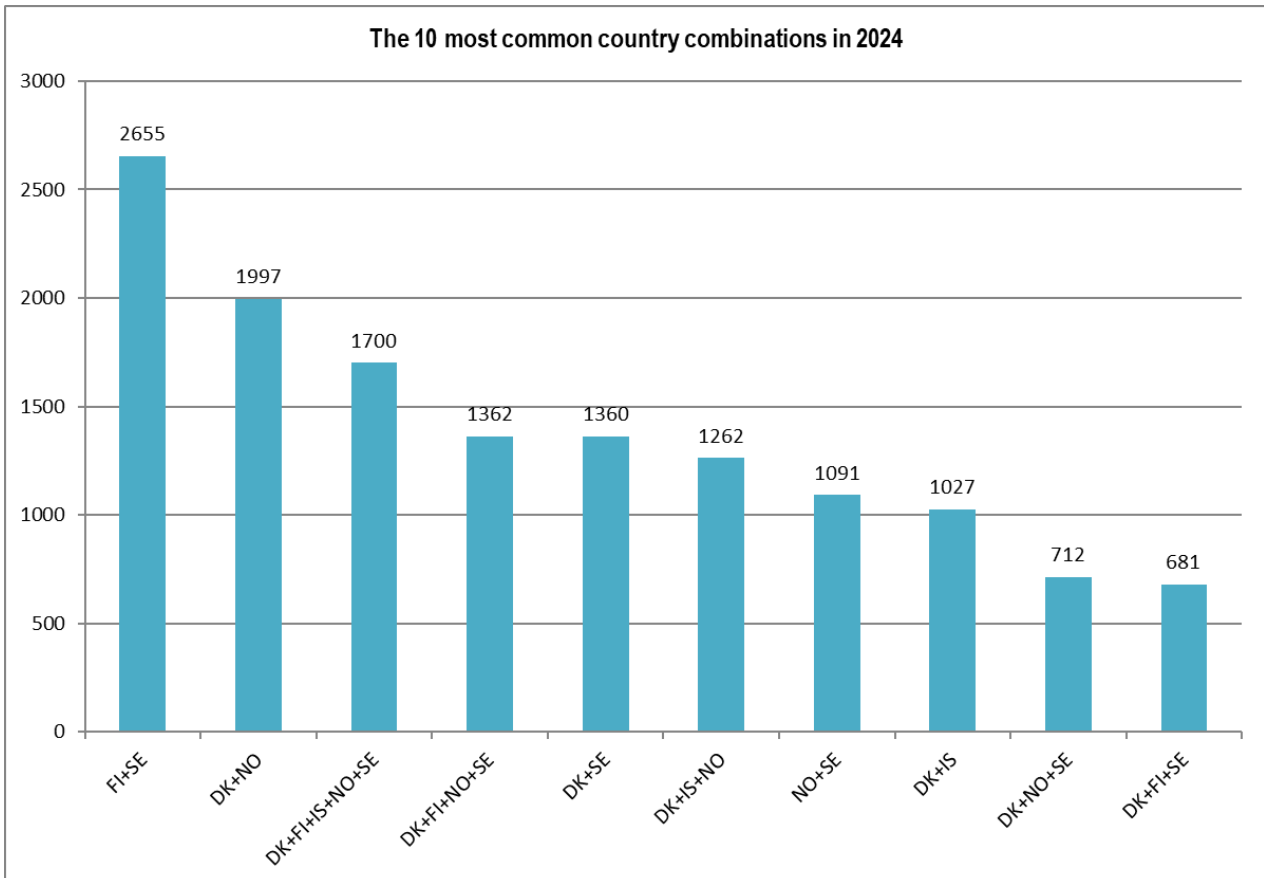


Picture 11.



The 10 most common country combinations of Vnrs can be seen in Picture 12. The order of the most common country combinations remained mostly unchanged from the previous year. The most common country combination in 2024 was again the combination of Finland and Sweden.

Picture 12.



# Vnr Data country by country

In this section the country specific information from each country is presented as follows:

- the amount of Vnrs of different statuses
- the portion of
  - locked
  - unlocked
  - parallel imported
  - human products
  - veterinary products.
- the most common country combinations of all Vnrs
- the most common country combinations of the parallel imported products.  
In the picture of the parallel imported products only country combinations with at least 5 Vnrs are shown.

## Denmark

At the end of 2024 there were 22 452 valid Vnrs in Denmark and 24 % of the Vnrs were for parallel imported products. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

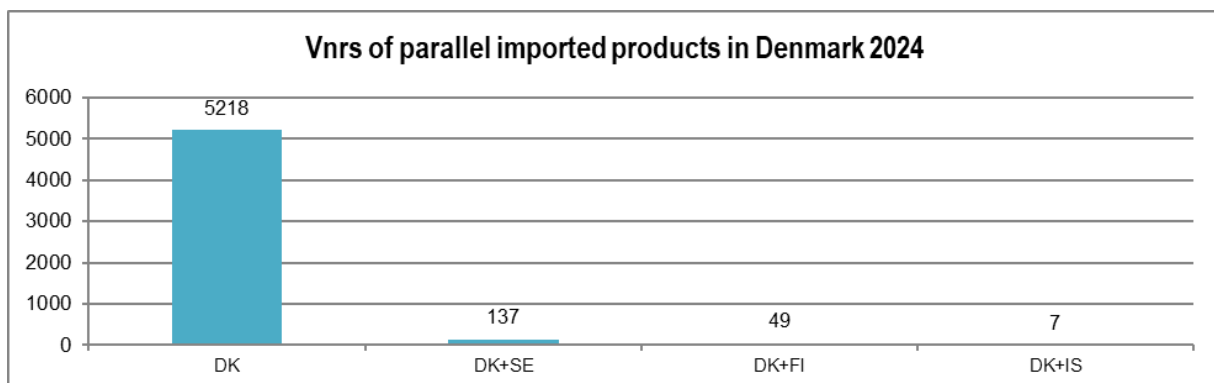
Table 2.

Vnrs in Denmark 2024	
All	22 452
Unlocked	15 615 (70 %)
Locked	6 837 (30 %)
Parallel imported	5 416 (24 %)

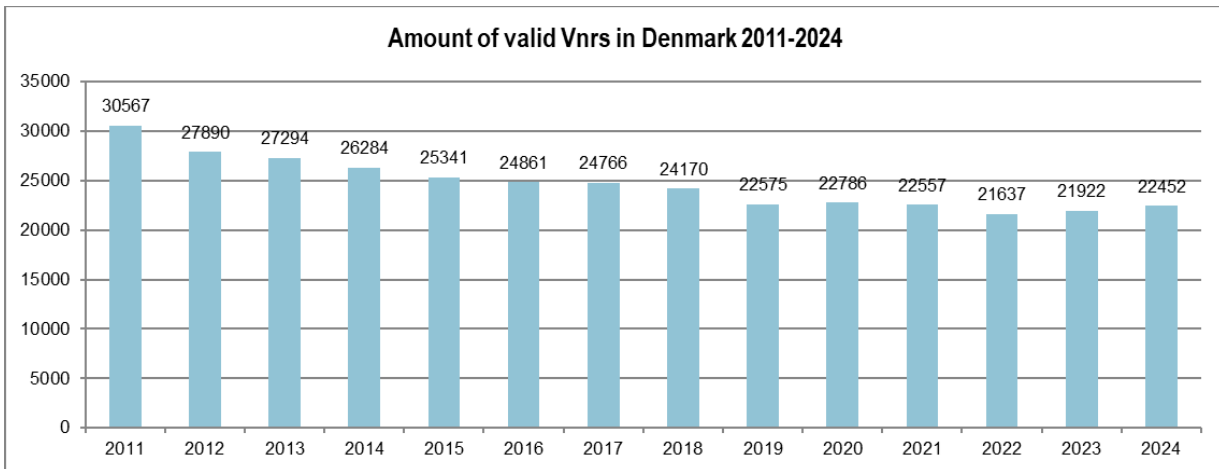
Table 3.

Human and veterinary medicines in Denmark 2024	
Human	20 122 (90 %)
Veterinary	2 310 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	20 (0 %)

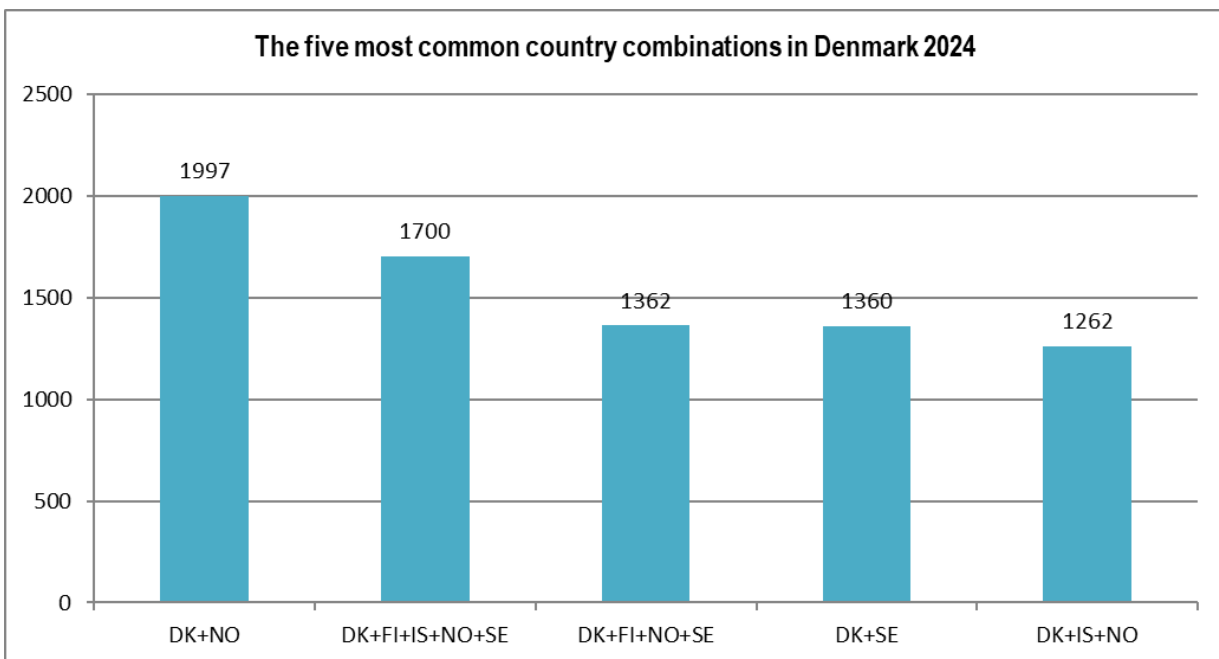
Picture 13.



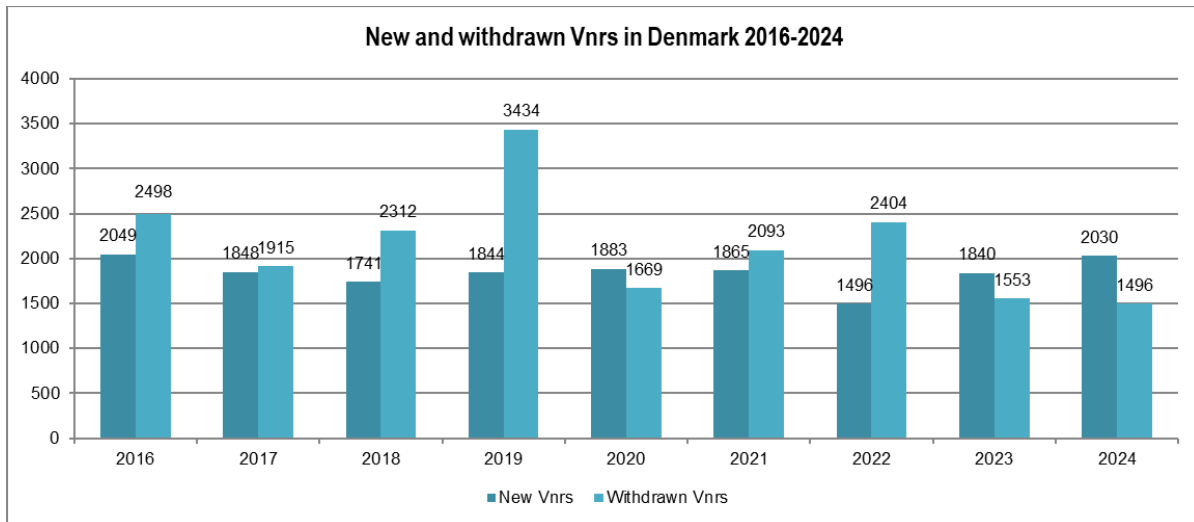
Picture 14.



Picture 15.



Picture 16.



## Finland

In Finland there were 14 722 valid Vnrs at the end of 2024. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

Table 4.

Vnrs in Finland 2024	
All	14 722
Unlocked	12 147 (83 %)
Locked	2 575 (17 %)
Parallel imported	1 187 (8 %)

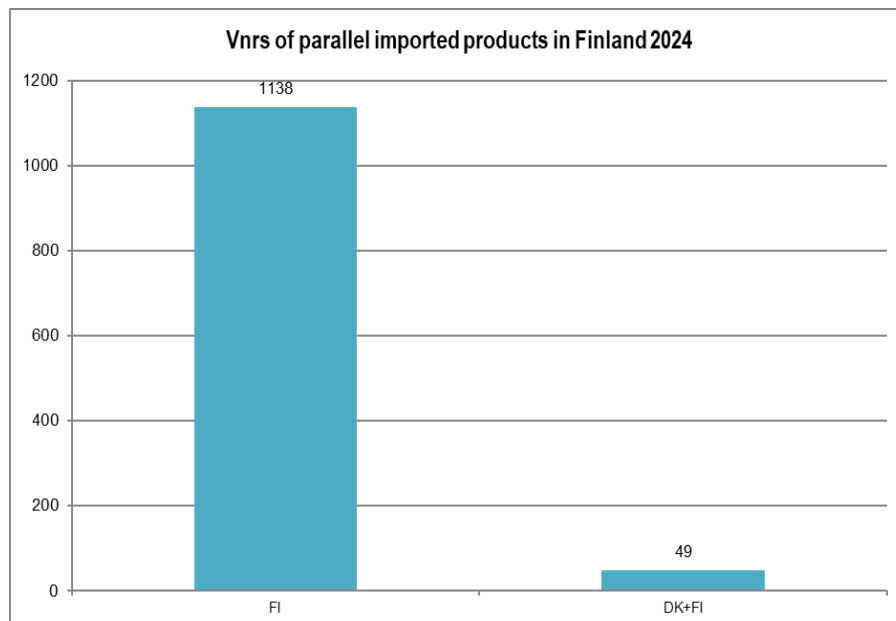
Table 5.

Human and veterinary medicines in Finland 2024	
Human	13 241 (90 %)
Veterinary	1 480 (10 %)
Human and veterinary	1 (0 %)

Table 6.

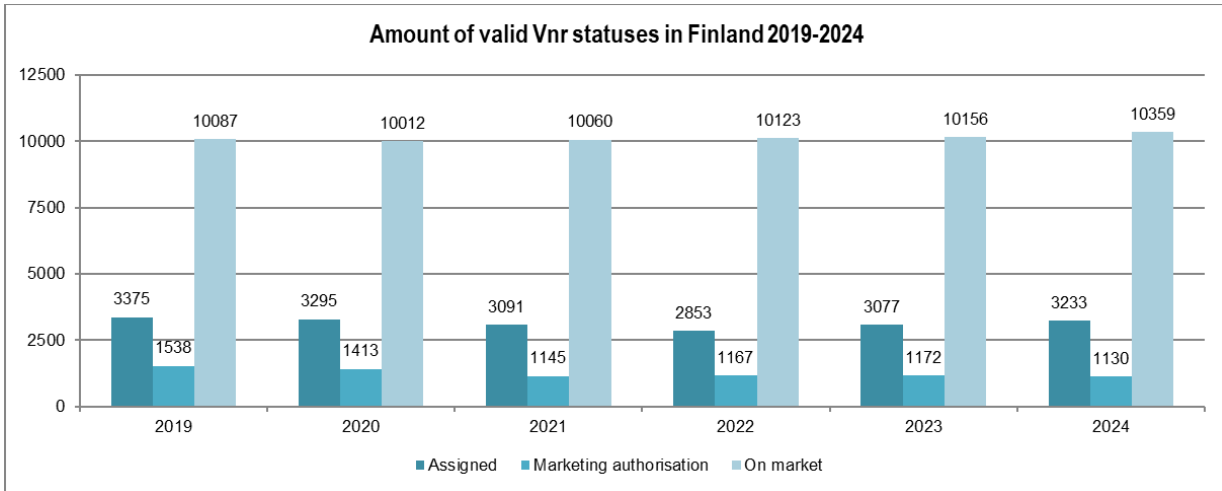
Prescription only, harmful in traffic and narcotic medicines in Finland 2024	
Prescription only	12 969 (88 %)
Harmful in traffic	1 181 (8 %)
Narcotic	335 (2 %)

Picture 17.

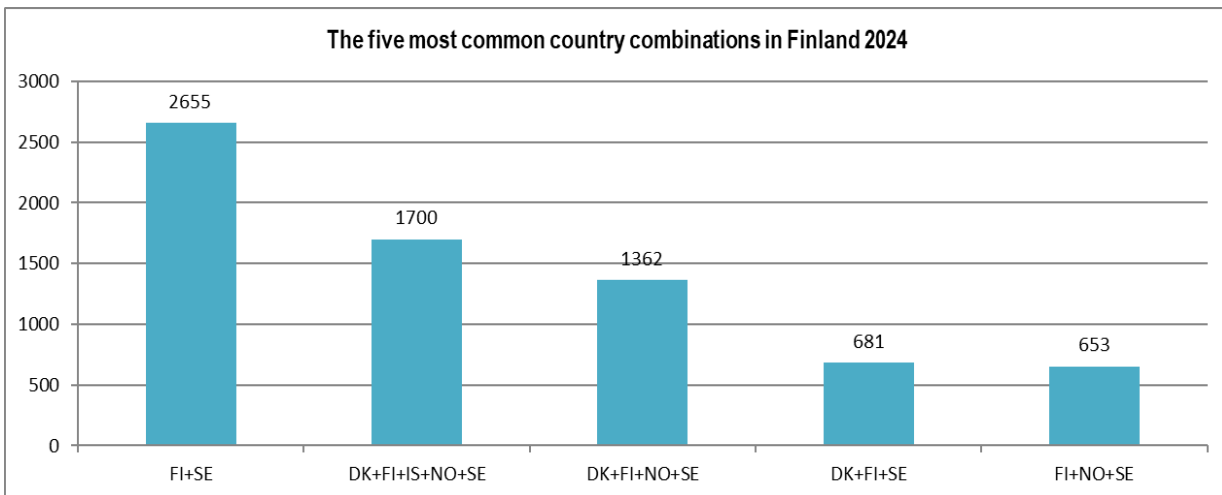




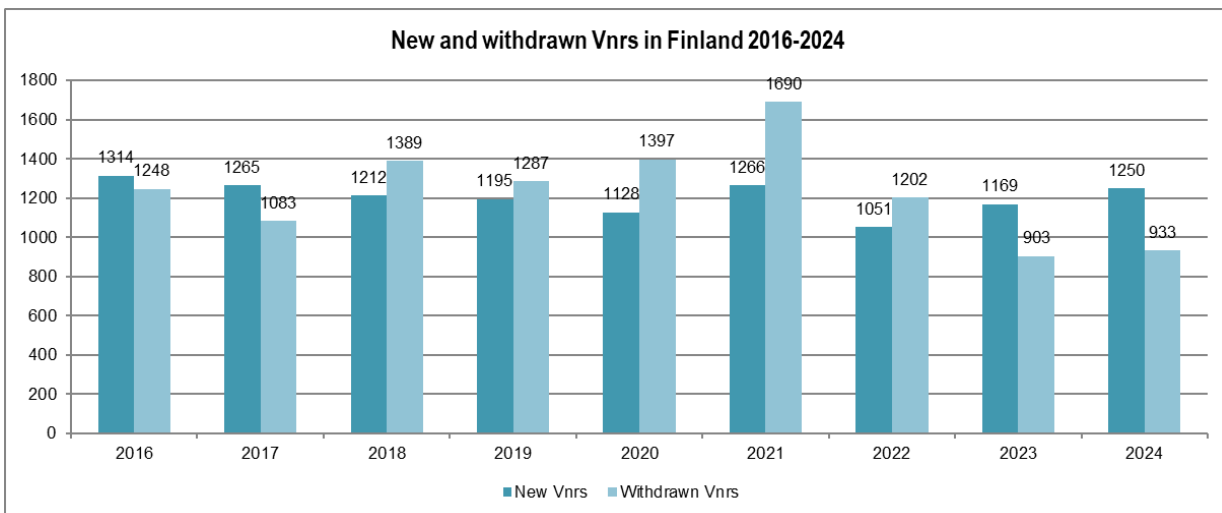
Picture 18.



Picture 19.



Picture 20.



## Iceland

In Iceland there were 9 468 valid Vnrs in 2024. Only 2 % of the products were parallel imported. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

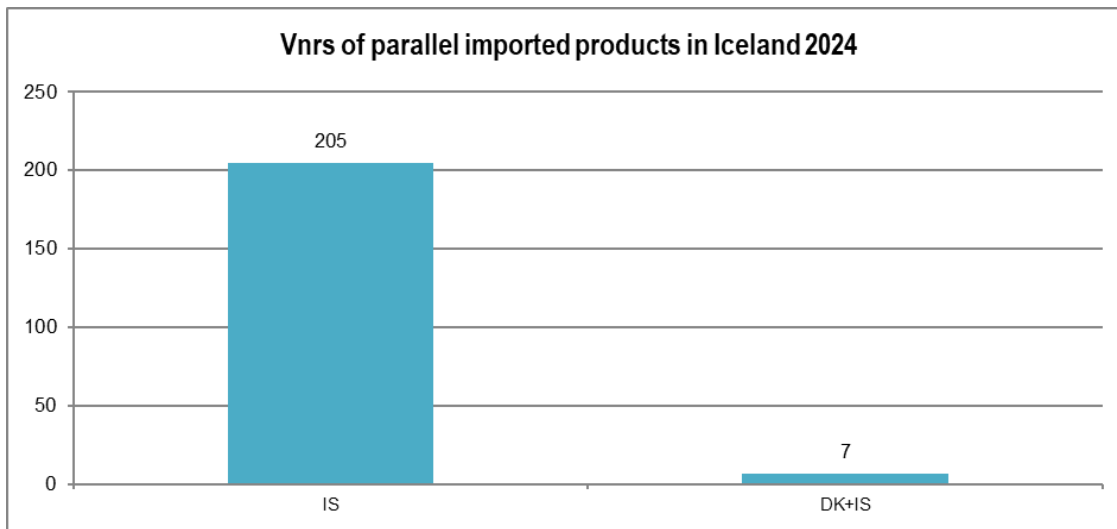
Table 7.

Vnrs in Iceland 2024	
All	9 468
Unlocked	8 693 (92 %)
Locked	775 (8 %)
Parallel imported	216 (2 %)

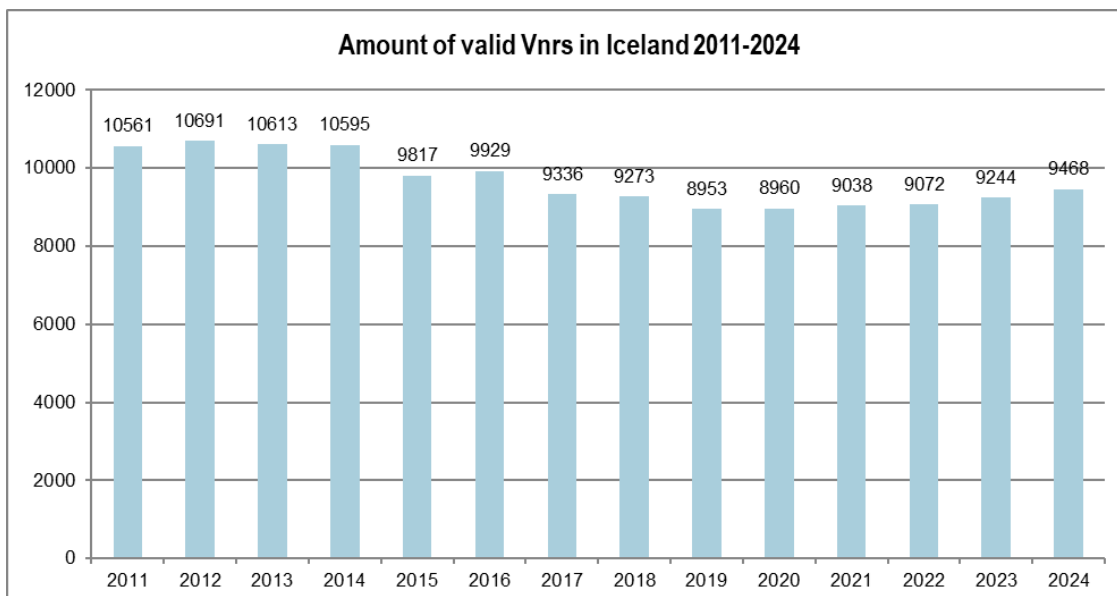
Table 8.

Human and veterinary medicines in Iceland 2024	
Human	8 874 (94 %)
Veterinary	591 (6 %)
Human and veterinary	3 (0 %)

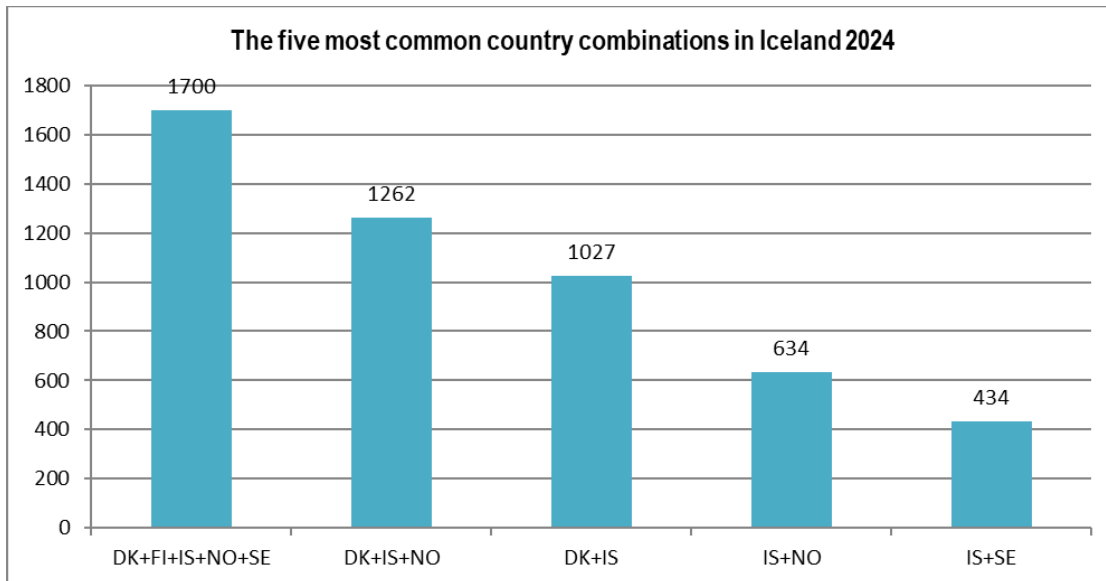
Picture 21.



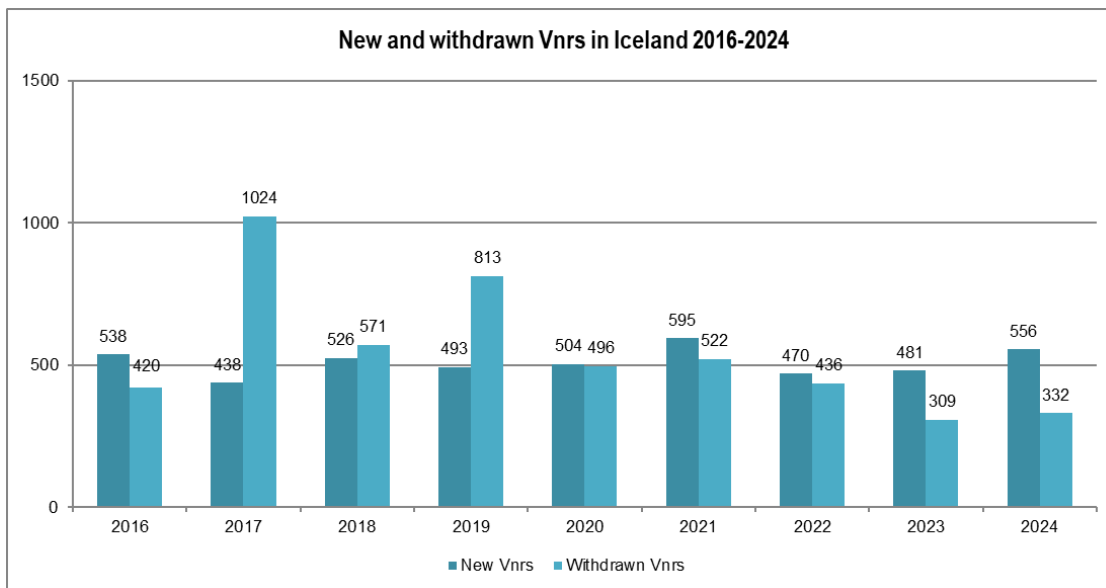
Picture 22.



Picture 23.



Picture 24.



## Norway

In Norway there were 18 387 valid Vnrs in 2024. More detailed information can be found in the following tables and pictures.

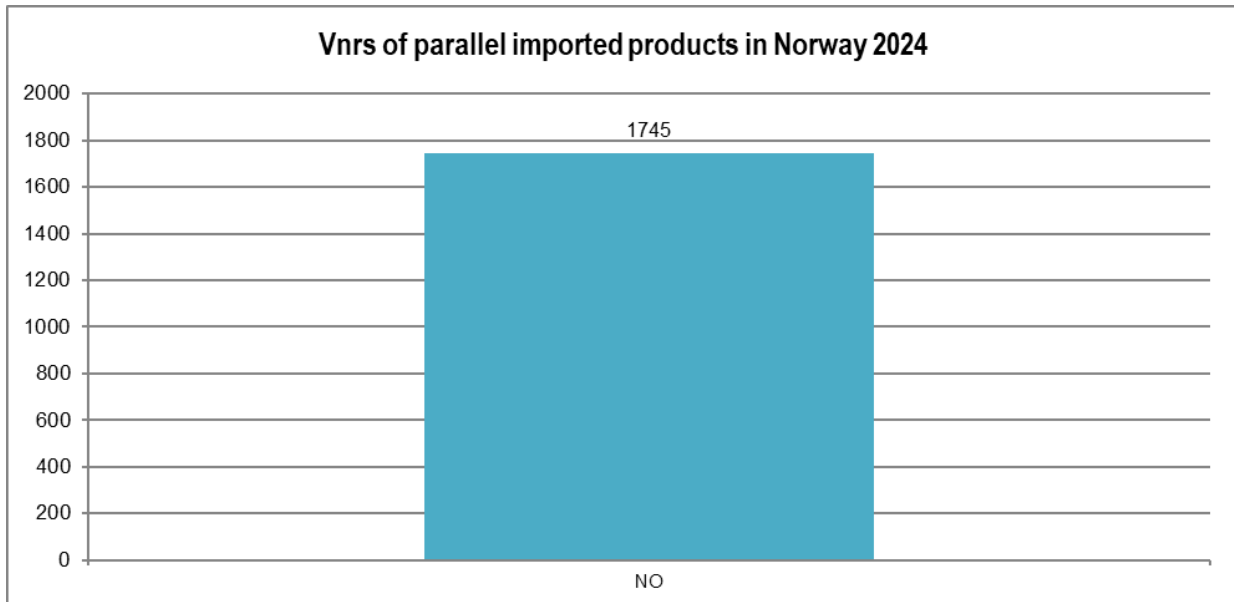
Table 9.

Vnrs in Norway 2024	
All	18 387
Unlocked	14 790 (80 %)
Locked	3 597 (20 %)
Parallel imported	1 757 (10 %)

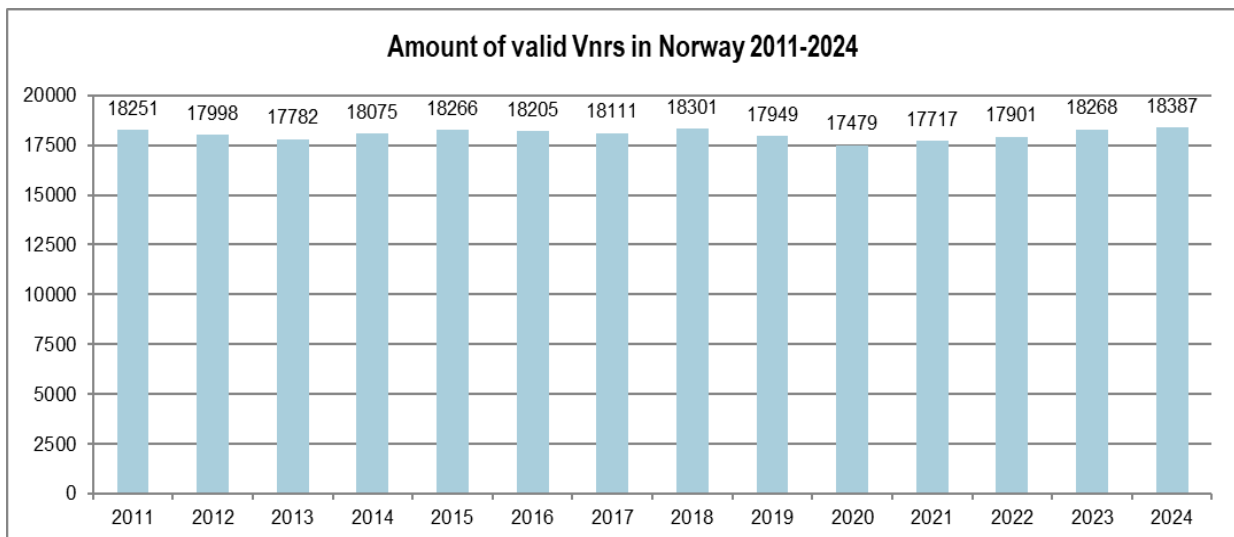
Table 10.

Human and veterinary medicines in Norway 2024	
Human	16 787 (91 %)
Veterinary	1 593 (9 %)
Human and veterinary	7 (0 %)

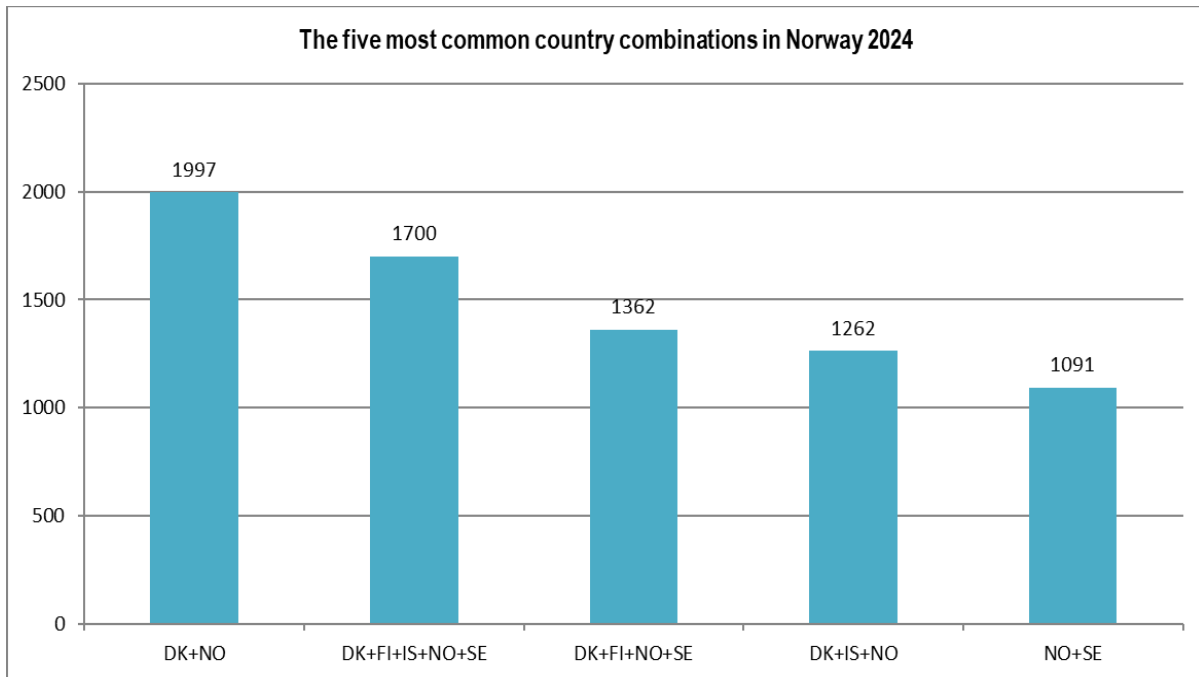
Picture 25.



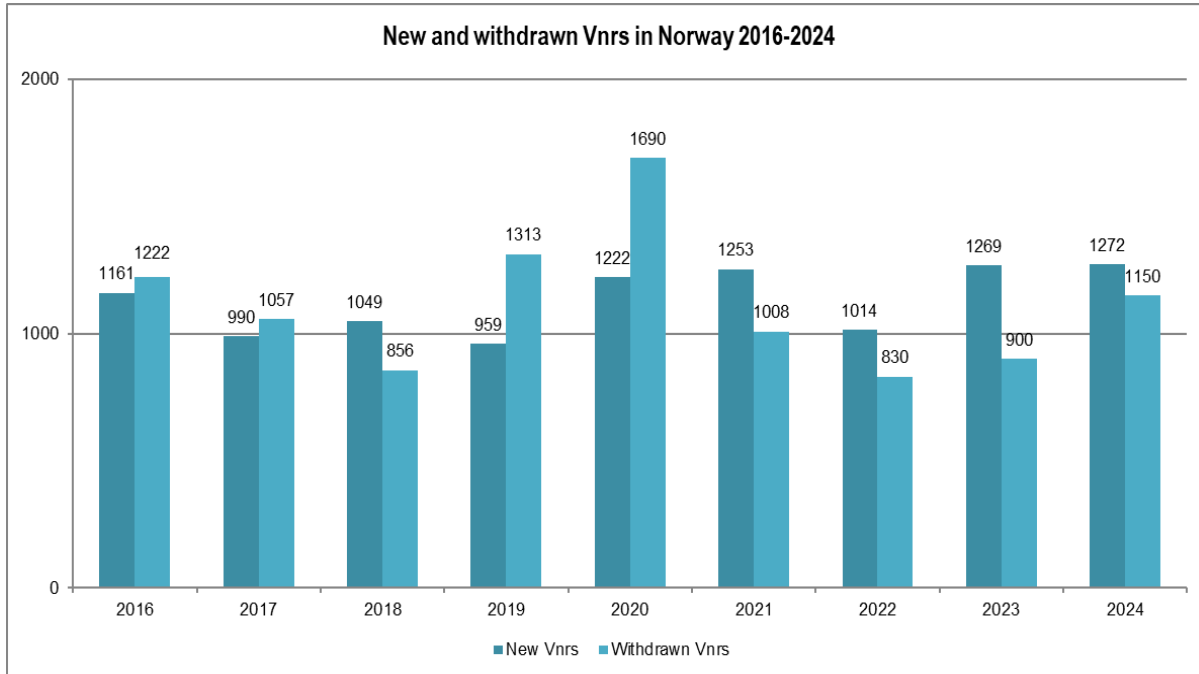
Picture 26.



Picture 27.



Picture 28.



## Sweden

In Sweden there were 24 018 valid Vnrs, of which 20 % were parallel imported products at the end of 2024. More detailed information can be found in the tables and pictures below.

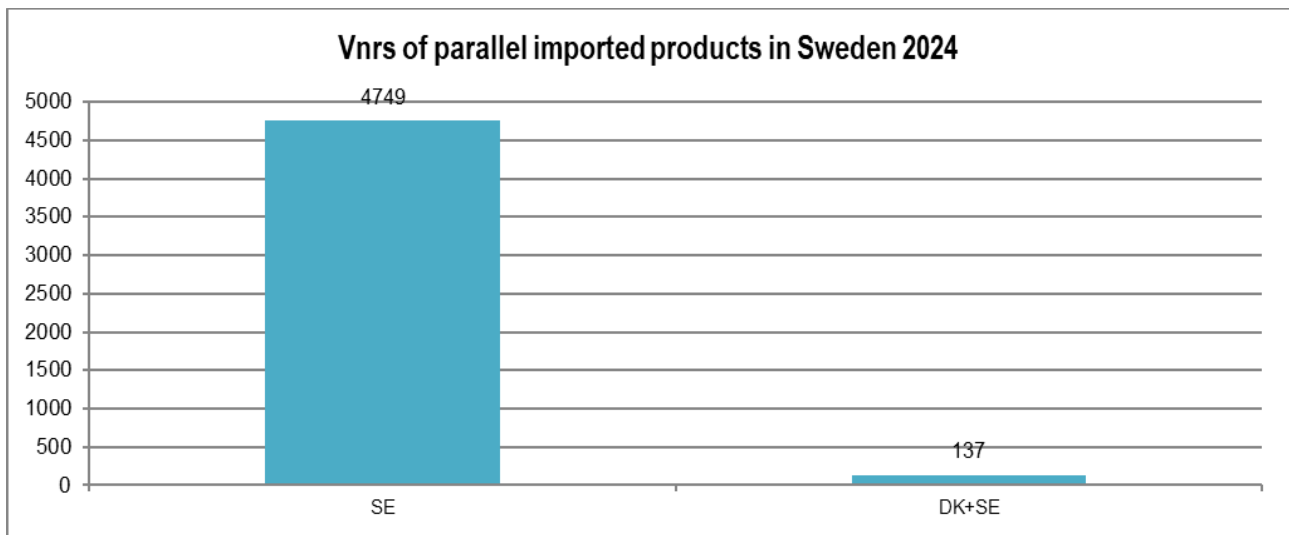
Table 11.

Vnrs in Sweden 2024	
All	24 018
Unlocked	17 249 (72 %)
Locked	6 769 (28 %)
Parallel imported	4 892 (20 %)

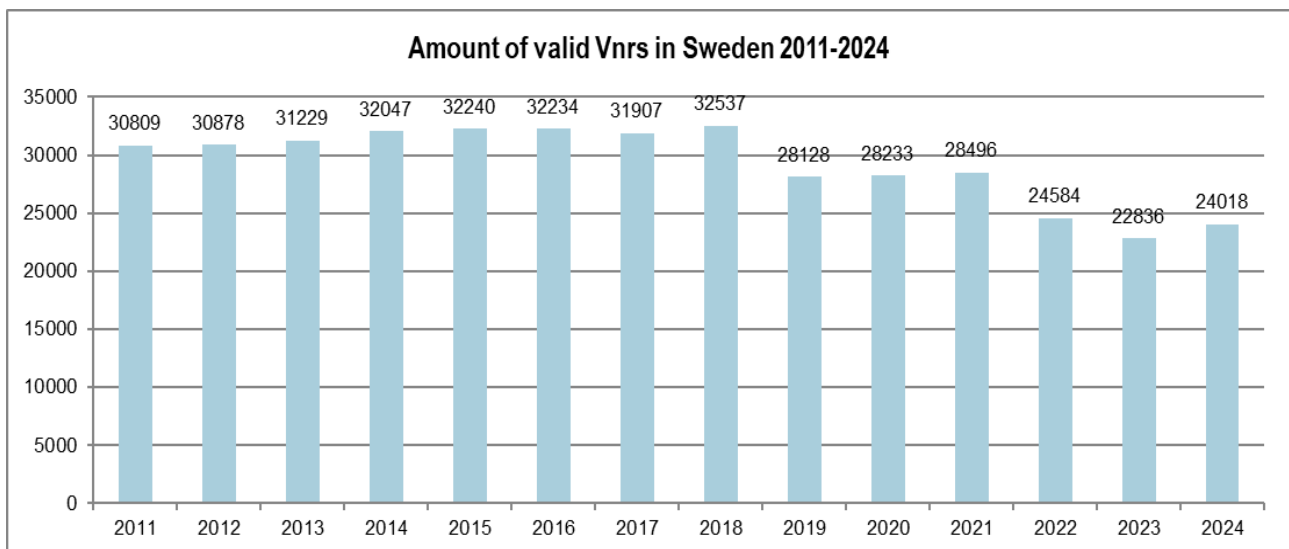
Table 12.

Human and veterinary medicines in Sweden 2024	
Human	22 343 (93 %)
Veterinary	1 642 (7 %)
Human and veterinary	33 (0 %)

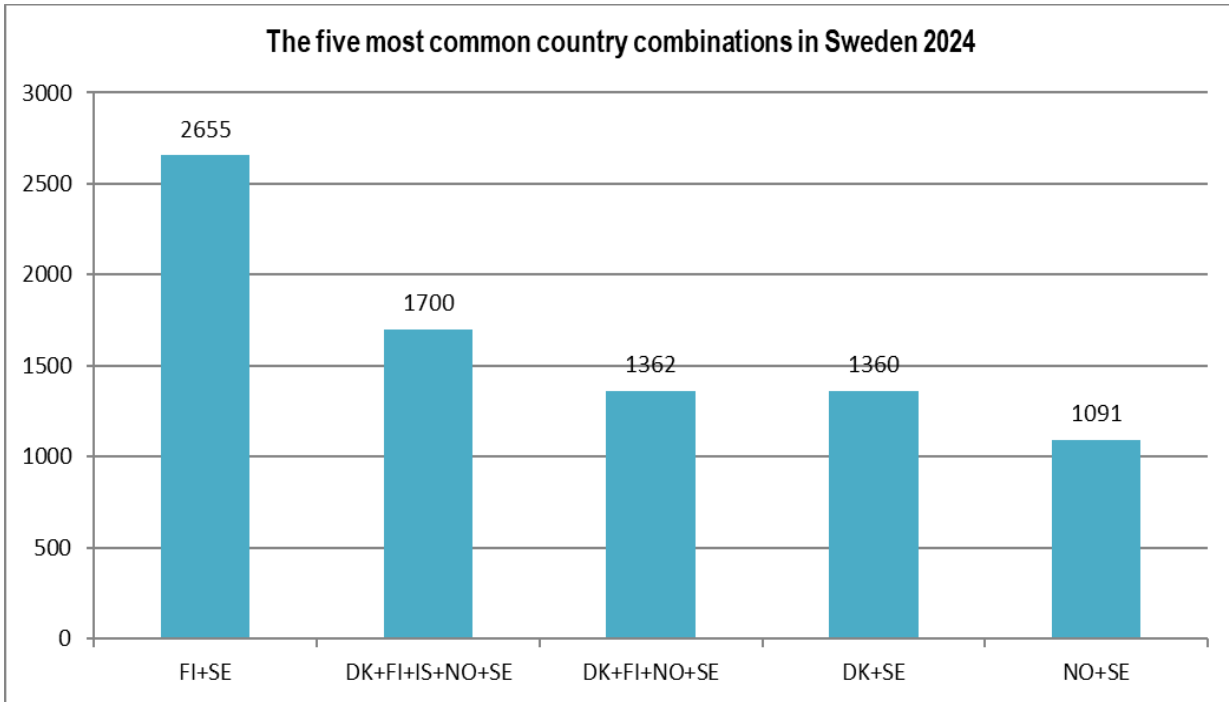
Picture 29.



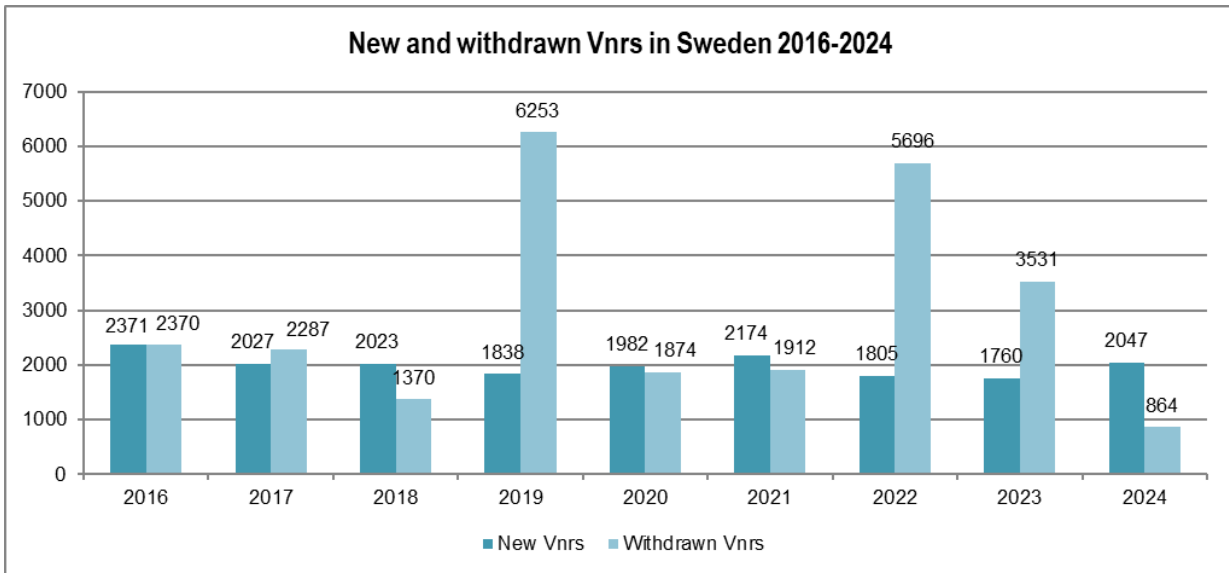
Picture 30.



Picture 31.



Picture 32.



# Catalyzing Intelligence for Health

Pharmaca Health Intelligence Ltd produces pharmaceutical information, business intelligence and training services for healthcare and pharmaceutical companies and organizations. We are a hub for drug information in Finland. We maintain, refine, and enrich up to date drug information databases and services for consumers, healthcare professionals, companies and healthcare IT providers. Our best-known services and products are Pharmaca Fennica<sup>®</sup>, Real World Insight, Pharmarket<sup>™</sup>, Lääkeinfo.fi, Pharmaca Academy<sup>™</sup>, pharmaceutical seminars and webinars.

Pharmarket<sup>™</sup> is an easy-to-use market analysis service for the Finnish pharmaceutical market. The service includes reliable, up-to-date price and sales information of pharmaceuticals to support decision-making. Customers can directly access a powerful data cube and build reports. Pharmarket Mobile reports are quickly accessible also from smart phones and tablets.

We also provide sales data to [Nordic Pharma Insights](#), which is a collaboration between the leading Nordic providers of national pharmaceutical sales data. Nordic Pharma Insights gathers four pharmaceuticals' markets in one solution with consolidated and ready to use view.

We carry out corporate social responsibility by providing the national Pharmaceutical Database for the Finnish Social Insurance Institution (Kela). The Pharmaceutical Database is a part of The National Archive of Health Information (Kanta), and the data is used in prescriptions in health care services and pharmacies, as well as in Kela when processing health insurance reimbursements and in the Kela online services for citizens.

Our business is based on customer needs, reliability, and innovation in developing new products, solutions, and services. We employ about 50 professionals from different fields of expertise. Our owner is Pharma Industry Finland.

## Pharmaca Health Intelligence serves customers as the Nordic Number Centre

The Nordic Article Number (Vnr) administration has been our responsibility since April 2010. We work together with our partners every day to ensure medication safety by providing Nordic Article Number (Vnr) services.

All professionals working with Vnr information in Pharmaca have pharmaceutical education. In addition, we have several IT specialists developing, maintaining and improving our databases and services.

[www.pharmaca.fi](http://www.pharmaca.fi)