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"Although tight lending criteria and strict regulations are restricting access to mortgages for many consumers, there is a clear and discernible appetite among consumers for mortgages – not least because consumer confidence is high and interest rates are low for NI consumers and relatively low for RoI consumers."

- Brian O'Connor, Senior Consumer Analyst

This report looks at the following areas:

While property prices and transaction volumes have returned to sustained, steady growth – albeit not yet to the levels recorded during the pre-recession, economic boom years – in both NI and RoI, tighter lending criteria and more restrictive regulations are combining to limit mortgage lending. As a result, mortgage ownership among both NI and RoI consumers has fallen quite significantly in recent years.

Given strong employment growth, buoyant consumer confidence and relatively low mortgage interest rates (particularly in NI), the potential demand for mortgages is high, but much of this demand is being frustrated by the aforementioned lending criteria and regulations. However, it is highly unlikely that these measures – introduced to ensure against unsustainable lending and irresponsible borrowing – will be removed or relaxed in the short to medium term, at least.

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DID YOU KNOW?

This report is part of a series of reports, produced to provide you with a more holistic view of this market



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