

As of 21 Jan 09, the Consumer Council estimates that cost of living has increased by £1 per week since this time last year

**Jan 2008**

**Annual Earnings**

£29,484

**Jan 2009**

**Annual Earnings**

£30,758

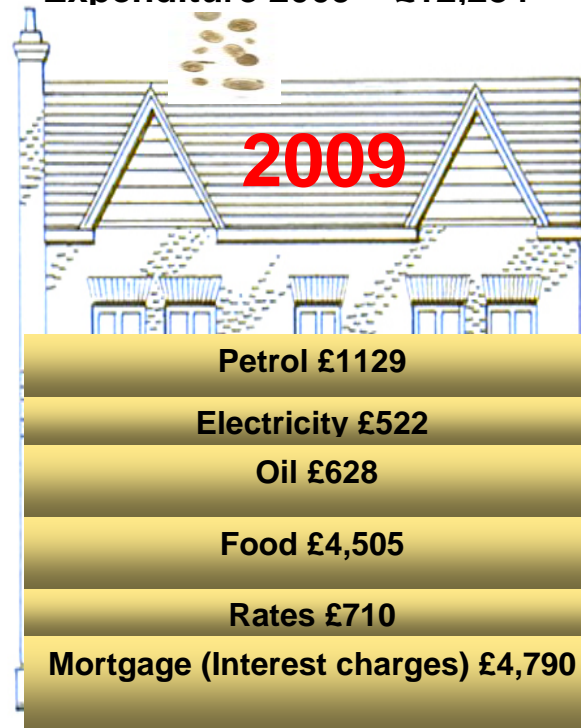
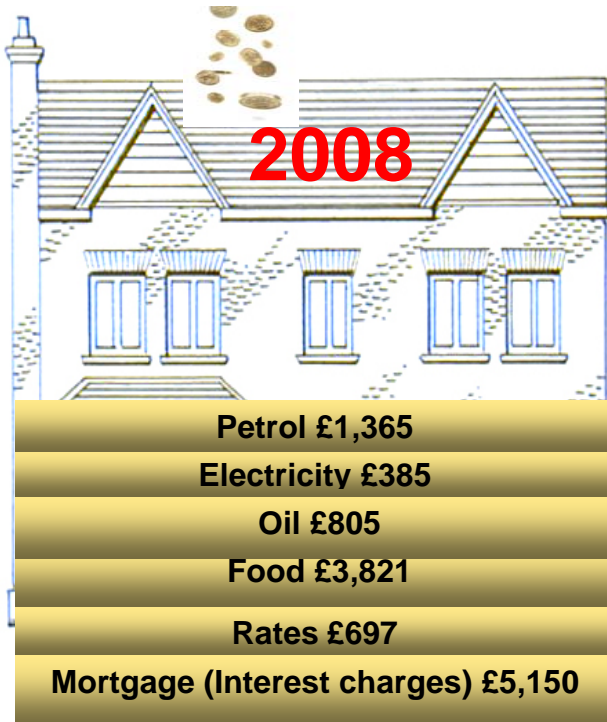
**Annual Essentials**

**Increased £61**

**Up 1%**

**Annual Essentials  
Expenditure 2008 = £12,223**

**Annual Essentials  
Expenditure 2009 = £12,284**



**Weekly  
Essentials  
increased by £1**

- ← **Petrol -£236, down 17%**
- ← **Electricity £137, up 36%**
- ← **Oil -£177, down 22%**
- ← **Food £684, up 18%**
- ← **Rates £13, up 2%**
- ← **Mortgage (Interest Charges) -£360, down 7%**

**Annual % of earnings spent on household energy and food in 2008 = 17 %**

**Annual % of earnings spent on household energy and food in 2009 = 18%**

Graph not to scale

This scenario is based on a family of four (man working full time and woman working part time), £100k mortgage coming off one two year fixed rate mortgage in 2006 onto another in 2008, 75% loan to value as at 31 Dec 2006 = 5.15%, average 2 yr fixed rate 75% loan to value as at 31 Dec 2008, =4.79%, own 50 litre petrol car and fill their tank once a fortnight, use two fills of oil (900 litres) per year. Electricity prices are taken from NIE's Home Energy Tariff in Jan 2008 and Jan 2009 tariff. Earnings figures as at April 2008 and April 2007, are taken from the DETI Annual Survey Of Hours and Earnings published on 14 Nov 2008. Earnings figures used are gross median; petrol prices are from a fuel price report for average petrol prices in Northern Ireland for Jan 2008 from the AA and 2009 figures are based on average NI petrol figures for 20 Jan 2009 from Catalist; oil figures are based on Consumer Council snapshot surveys of average oil prices based on 17 suppliers taken on 10 Jan 2008 and 37 suppliers taken on 21 Jan 2009; mortgage interest charges are from Financial Inclusion Centre for 31 Dec 2008; rates from Land and Property Services Northern Ireland Jan 2009; food prices are based on average NI spend on food from Family Spending Survey- 2008 Edition and research from mysupermarket.co.uk on percentage price increase on 11 Dec 2008 of a basket of 24 staple food items. This model assumes that all other 2009 prices remain constant.