

# Satisfaction with life in general

According to the Hungarian  
BerBarométer/WageIndicator  
database

Dr. Szilvia Borbély

MARMOL RESEARCH BUDAPEST



WageIndicator.org

**About MARMOL RESEARCH BUDAPEST (<http://www.mresearch.co.hu/>)**

Marmol Research does extensive research in the following subjects:

- Market research
- Macro- and microeconomy
- Industrial relations
- Labour market research
- Background studies to start enterprises
- Case studies in Hungary, Central Europe and Eastern Europe; comparative and regional research.

Marmol Research

- also deals with business, finance and economy in the USA.

Besides, Marmol Research

- does partner-research for EU-funded projects
- organizes professional programs and business visits
- does translation and interpretation services in Hungary
- edits and publishes books

SZILVIA BORBÉLY, PhD in economics

[h10095bor@gmail.com](mailto:h10095bor@gmail.com)

[h10095bor@ella.hu](mailto:h10095bor@ella.hu)

[borbelyszilvi@t-online.hu](mailto:borbelyszilvi@t-online.hu)

**About Wage Indicator Foundation (<http://www.wageindicator.org>)**

The independent non-profit Wage Indicator Foundation aims for transparency of the labour market by sharing and comparing data through its network of national websites. *Wage Indicator* has operations in more than 60 countries.

The Wage Indicator Foundation was established in the Netherlands in 2003. The Foundation is based in Amsterdam. It has regional offices in Ahmadabad, Bratislava, Buenos Aires, Cape Town/Maputo and Minsk. Its headquarters and postal address are:

Wage Indicator Foundation

Plantage Muidergracht 12

1018TV Amsterdam

The Netherlands

[office@wageindicator.org](mailto:office@wageindicator.org)

## Table of contents

Summary	3
1 Life satisfaction	4
2 Data and graphics	6
2.1 Satisfaction with life, gender distribution .....	6
2.2 Satisfaction with life, distribution according living alone or not .....	6
2.3 Graphs life satisfaction.....	8

## Summary

---

*SZGTI (Trade Union Institute of Economic and Social Research, Hungary) within its BérBarométer project (EQUAL H005) based on the WageIndicator system gathers since 2006 the on-line data on labour market, employment ([www.berbarometer.hu](http://www.berbarometer.hu)). The on-line questionnaire asks also about the satisfaction with the life in general. People filling the questionnaire could evaluate their satisfaction with life in a scale from 1 to 10, where the score 1 means that the answerer is not at all satisfied, meanwhile the score 10 means that he or she is totally satisfied with the life. So, we can consider (mostly) satisfied with the life those who vote with score from 6 to 10, meanwhile those who give score from 1 to 5 can be considered not or less satisfied with the life. The questionnaire in the five years has been filled by 2250 women and 1870 men.*

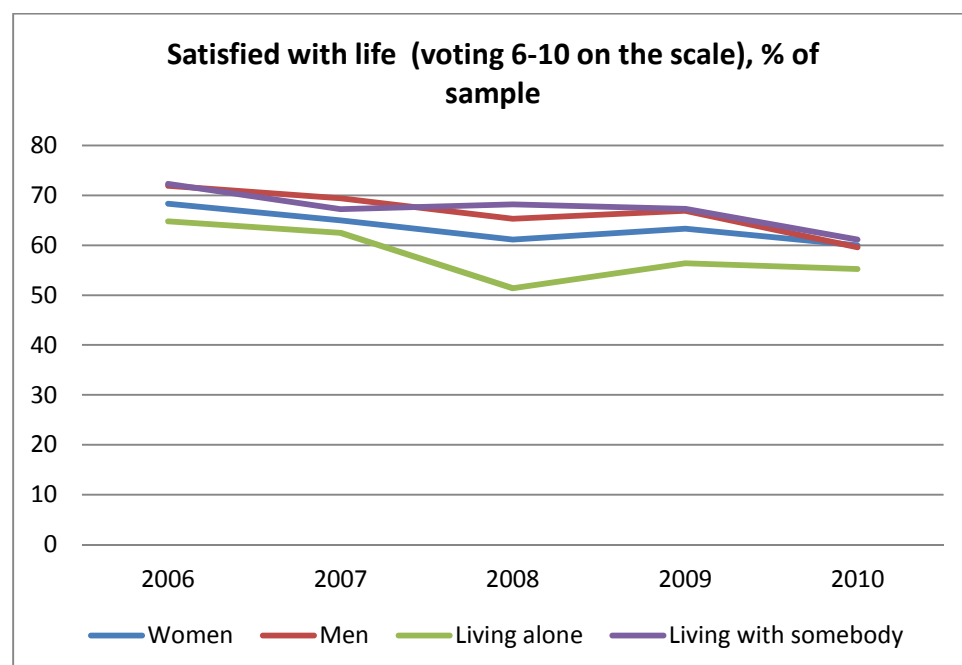
# 1 Life satisfaction

According to the gathered data the percentage of mostly satisfied with life (giving scores from 6 to 10) significantly decreased from 2006 to 2010.

## Percentage of sample voting for marks 6-10 on the satisfaction scale

%	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Women	68,3	65	61,1	63,3	60
Men	71,9	69,4	65,3	66,9	59,6
Living alone	64,8	62,5	51,4	56,4	55,2
Living with somebody	72,3	67,2	68,2	67,3	61,1

Source: [www.berbarometer.hu](http://www.berbarometer.hu)



In 2006-2010 the proportion of men satisfied with the life – although starting at a higher per cent – decreased more considerably than the same proportion of women. The proportion of men giving a score of 6-10 in 2006 was 72% and in 2010 only 59,6 %, meanwhile the proportion of women giving a score of 6-10 in 2006 was 68%, in 2010 only 60%.

In 2006 only 3,3 % of men voted for 1 in the scale (meaning to be not satisfied with life at all), in 2010 already 8,3%. As concerns the women in 2006 4% and in 2010 6,7% voted for 1 and was not satisfied at all with the life in general.

In case of both gender the significant drop in the satisfaction happened in 2008 (starting year of economic crisis) and following a short improvement period in 2009, in 2010 the share of not satisfied has been fallen first of all in case of men. (We had to mention that 2009 was a

year of expectations characterised by crisis management and waiting the next year parliamentary elections.)

The less satisfied with the life are those living alone. In 2006 64,8% and in 2010 already only 55,2% gave 6-10 score. 2008 was an extremely hard year for the people living alone: the share of them voting with 6-10 decreased to 51%. It also means that half of people living alone were less satisfied with the life than more.

The people living with somebody were the more satisfied with the life, in 2006 72% and in 2010 61%. But we have to underline as an unusual and warning sign that the share of those living with somebody and being satisfied (score 6-10) has been decreased more rapidly from 2006 to 2010 (11 percentage points drop) than of those living alone (9,6 percentage point drop)!

dr. Szilvia Borbély

[h10095bor@gmail.com](mailto:h10095bor@gmail.com)

[h10095bor@ella.hu](mailto:h10095bor@ella.hu)

[borbelyszilvi@t-online.hu](mailto:borbelyszilvi@t-online.hu)

## 2 Data and graphics

---

### 2.1 Satisfaction with life, gender distribution

#### Women, %

%	Not satisfied at all	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Totally satisfied
2006	4,0	2,7	5,0	5,7	14,2	8,0	26,2	18,5	8,2	7,5
2007	4,5	2,8	5,8	7,3	14,5	12,9	22,3	18,1	5,4	6,3
2008	4,0	2,7	8,5	7,5	16,2	15,2	17,2	14,2	7,0	7,5
2009	4,2	2,5	8,8	8,3	12,9	12,5	17,1	19,2	9,2	5,4
2010	6,7	3,1	6,9	6,2	17,2	12,3	15,6	19,0	8,7	4,4

Source: [www.berbarometer.hu](http://www.berbarometer.hu)

#### Men, %

%	Not satisfied at all	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Totally satisfied
2006	3,3	1,9	3,8	7,4	11,7	14,7	22,3	19,3	8,4	7,1
2007	3,3	2,9	6,6	5,8	12,0	11,9	25,3	19,2	8,0	5,2
2008	4,7	2,2	7,5	6,3	14,1	16,6	18,1	17,5	6,3	6,9
2009	4,4	3,1	3,1	10,0	12,5	16,9	22,5	14,4	7,5	5,6
2010	8,3	1,3	6,7	8,8	15,4	12,1	20,0	15,4	5,0	7,1

Source: [www.berbarometer.hu](http://www.berbarometer.hu)

### 2.2 Satisfaction with life, distribution according living alone or not

#### Living alone, %

%	Not satisfied at all	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Totally satisfied
2006	4,4	3,1	7,9	5,7	14,1	10,6	23,3	16,7	6,2	7,9
2007	5,1	3,1	7,6	7,2	14,5	12,9	24,4	15,2	4,5	5,5
2008	6,7	4,8	11,9	7,1	18,1	15,2	15,2	12,4	3,8	4,8
2009	6,4	3,8	9,0	11,5	12,8	12,8	25,6	12,8	3,8	1,3
2010	12,0	5,6	7,2	10,4	9,6	19,2	9,6	15,2	5,6	5,6

Source: [www.berbarometer.hu](http://www.berbarometer.hu)

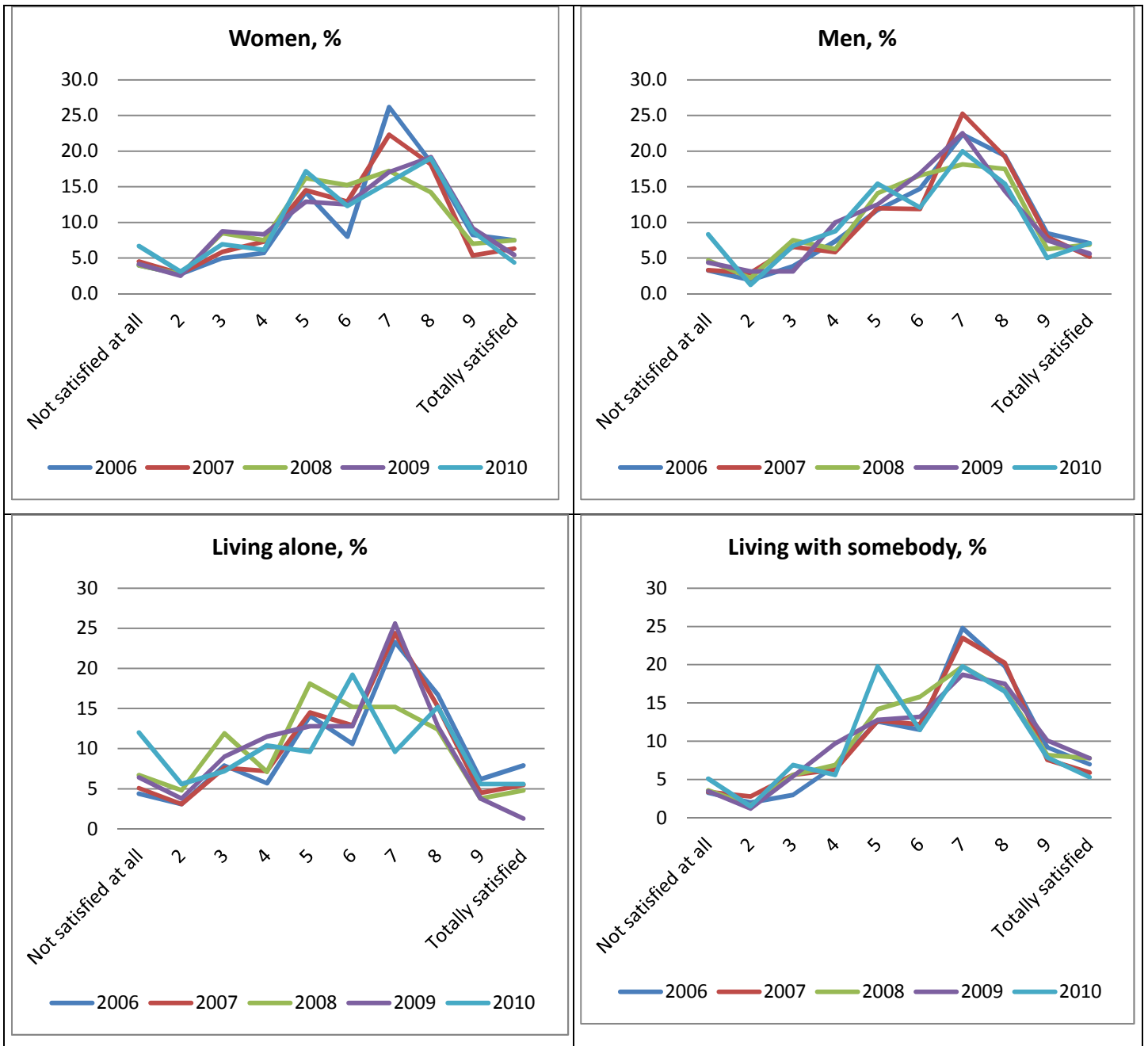
### Living with somebody, %

	Not satisfied at all	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Totally satisfied
2006	3,3	2,0	3,0	6,8	12,6	11,5	24,8	19,8	9,2	7,0
2007	3,4	2,8	5,6	6,3	12,7	12,2	23,5	20,2	7,6	5,9
2008	3,6	1,6	5,6	6,9	14,2	15,8	19,8	16,7	8,2	7,8
2009	3,5	1,2	5,4	9,7	12,8	13,2	18,7	17,5	10,1	7,8
2010	5,1	1,5	6,9	5,6	19,8	11,5	19,8	16,5	7,9	5,3

Source: [www.berbarometer.hu](http://www.berbarometer.hu)



## 2.3 Graphs life satisfaction



# Wage Indicator Foundation

Plantage Muidersgracht 12  
1018 TV Amsterdam  
The Netherlands

[office@wageindicator.org](mailto:office@wageindicator.org)



**WageIndicator.org**