

## **The History of Women in Mining: Facts and Figures**

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Mining is a male dominated occupation and the opportunity for women to actively participate, or choose mining as a viable career option, was restricted both legally and through societal norms. Notwithstanding, historically various female role-players have added significant understanding and support to early minerals development in such countries as USA, Canada, and Australia. The global time-line of where, and how, women began to actively contribute to a sector at the forefront of much global economic development provides the required background to understand the global changes, as well as what underpins current drivers within the context of the South African mining sector. With female graduates exceeding the 30% mark globally, together with the current publicized skills shortages associated with all avenues of the minerals sector, a diverse work force can only add to corporate competitive advantage in a sector with increasingly narrow financial margins.