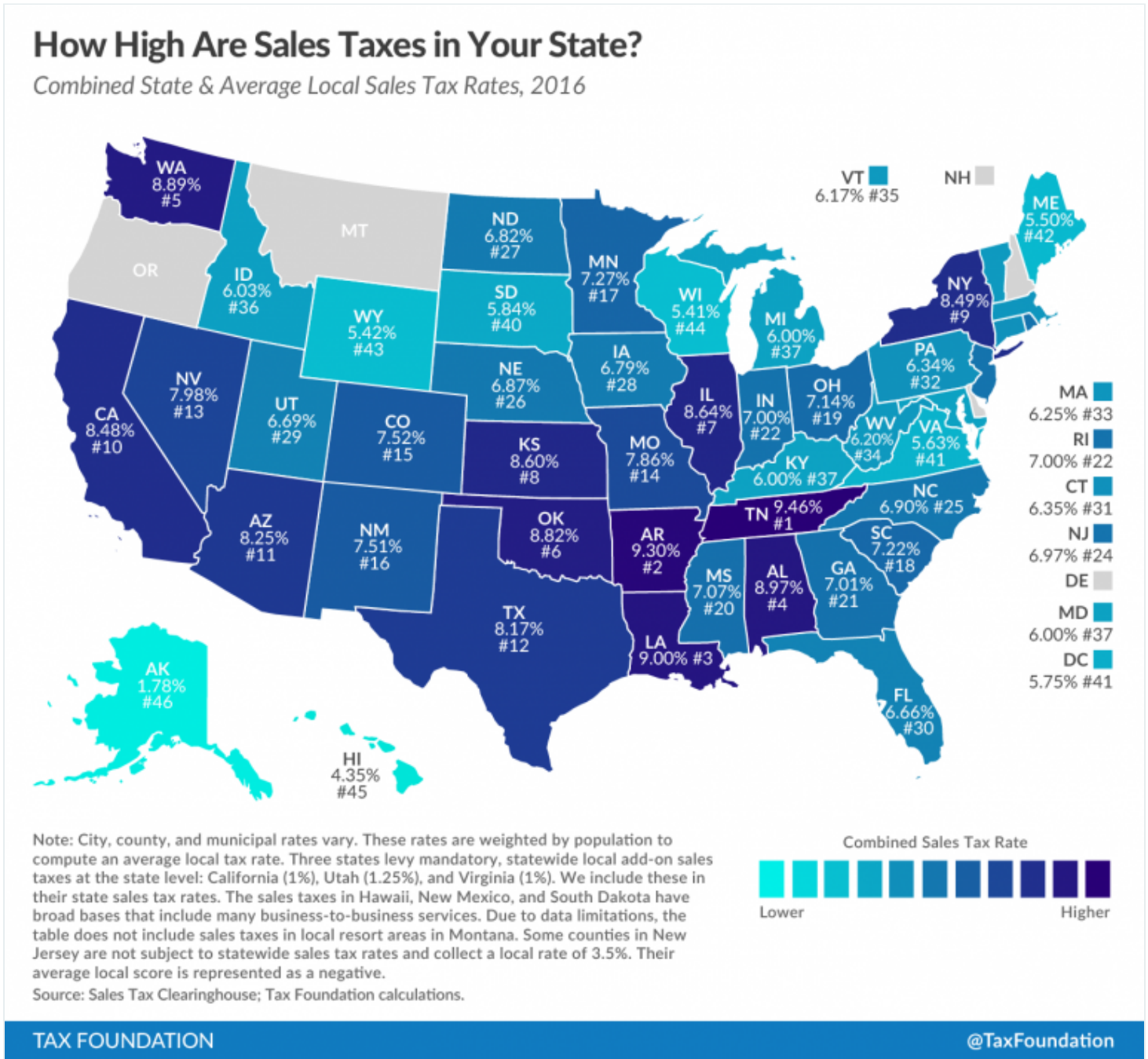


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business owner to research and implement tax rates for cities, counties, states, and even countries, it's imperative that today's business owners invest in a software ...

Mary Girsch-Bock • Jun. 13, 2016



With the complicated rules, and the inordinate amount of time it would take today's

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businesses may be able to keep track of sales collection and payment, those selling in multiple cities or states can quickly find themselves overwhelmed with the amount of information they need to manage, as well as possibly facing some serious repercussions if reports are not filed and taxes paid promptly.

Another complication is tracking temporary tax rates put into play by cities looking to fund a project, or the new popularity of tax holidays that many cities and states have implemented in recent years. Add to that the fact that these tax rates can change much more frequently than standard income tax rates, and even the small business owner can find themselves in trouble.

## 2016 Reviews of Sales and Use Tax Systems

[Avalara AvaTax](#)

[Avalara TrustFile](#)

[BNA Sales & Use Tax Rates & Forms](#)

[CFS Tax Software](#)

[SureTax](#)

[Thomson Reuters ONESOURCE Indirect Tax](#)

[Vertex SMB](#)

[Wolters Kluwer Sales Tax Office](#)

One solution to the problem is to have an accountant or CPA handle sales and use tax calculations and payments; a solution that is being seen more frequently, as more businesses expand their selling network to include nationwide, or even worldwide

sales. But for those that wish to track sales and use tax in-house, it's imperative that

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- Can you get in and start using the system quickly, or is setup and implementation complicated and time consuming? Keeping it user-friendly is vital. This is particularly important for the business owner who will be using the system.
- Does the product file tax returns? Again, this is particularly important for the small business owner. It's great that the system is tracking the tax liability, but what you do with that information is just as important. For businesses not using an accounting firm to manage their taxes, this may be the most important feature of all.

Whether a business owner chooses to let their accountant handle sales and use tax management or chooses the do-it-yourself solution, they must be given the proper tools to handle the process adequately. And because business needs can vary, the sales and use tax products we reviewed vary as well. The products we looked at in this review cover three very distinct areas:

1. **Rates & Forms Tools** – These products provide quick access to current tax rates for thousands of tax jurisdictions, while also providing users with access to a library of tax forms that can be accessed and completed for filing.
2. **Integrated Sales Tax Engines** – These products are designed to provide larger businesses that have more complicated sales and use tax need. Most are designed to integrate with existing accounting software, working in tandem with that product to provide accurate, up-to-date tax calculations on any sales transactions processed.
3. **Sales Tax Preparation** – These products are designed to prepare and file sales and use tax returns, and often contain the ability to e-file returns with the appropriate agency while also paying taxes electronically

Because all of these areas are equally important, it was impossible to assign a rating to them. Instead, readers are given a summary of their features, along with a brief list of product strengths and potential weaknesses.

So whether you're looking to implement a sales and use tax product in your own firm

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