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*From*  
*the August 2007 Review of Sales & Use Tax Systems*

Thomson Tax & Accounting offers several sales and use tax options through its InSource brand. This includes the Sales & Use Tax Rate Subscription, which provides monthly updated tax tables for all jurisdictions in the United States and Canada. The vendor's return preparation systems are InSource Sales & Use Tax (ISU) and the web-based InSource Express RS Sales & Use Tax (Express), which offers transaction tax return preparation for all states and localities using ZIP code or other geographic code to identify special taxing districts, along with rate lookup capabilities. The full version of the program (ISU) is geared toward large enterprises with broad compliance needs, while Express caters to small to medium-sized companies with more limited compliance needs. Housed on the business' own servers, ISU ties into the ERP or accounting system to automatically route data to returns. It can support any number of companies, divisions and subsidiaries and includes all jurisdictions in the United States and Canada. Thomson notes that pricing starts around \$10,000 depending on your company's tax profile. Please contact your local sales rep or customer service manager for a full quote.

#### **Navigation & Data Entry — 4.5 Stars**

As previously noted, the InSource Sales & Use Tax system can integrate into a tax department's monthly compliance process for automated return preparation. InSource can integrate with most enterprise-level accounting systems. As part of an integrated system, a tax manager or other user's primary interaction with the system would be reviewing and making necessary adjustments prior to submitting the forms and funds. InSource provides access to the searchable and

filterable Binders list, which serves as an entity selection list. These entities

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ISU has the ability to record repetitive activities into “Macros” that can be used to further automate the compliance process. Users can import data and print returns all with the single click of a button. Whether used as an integrated or stand-alone system, InSource Sales & Use Tax offers electronic filing and electronic remittance of collected taxes to all jurisdictions that currently require it plus a few additional jurisdictions that allow it. The program offers analysis functions such as exception and credit reports, period-to-period comparisons and jurisdictional analyses. Additionally, the system provides a full-time audit trail and managerial reporting options aiding in compliance oversight. InSource also offers industry-specific return preparation functions for food and beverage transactions. The system also maintains rate histories for taxing jurisdictions, enabling the correct posting of transactions to prior periods when necessary.

### **Filing, Electronic Compliance & Payment — 5 Stars**

Both versions of the InSource Sales & Use Tax system offer EDI and web-based return capabilities, as well as electronic banking functions for e-filing to all states and jurisdictions that require it plus a few additional jurisdictions that allow the option. Users also have the option of printing and filing paper-based returns, which can be printed on regular paper stock.

### **Rate Updates — 4.5 Stars**

The InSource Express RS version is web-based and hosted on Thomson's servers, so all updates are automatically maintained without need for action on the part of the user. Tax tables in the full version of the system, however, must be updated either from the monthly update CD or downloaded from the support website.

Updates are included in the pricing, but the system does not offer a method

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### **Relative Value — 4 Stars**

The InSource Sales & Use Tax system is a heavy-duty workhorse ideally suited to entities with exceptionally demanding transaction tax compliance issues involving scores of jurisdictions. As an automated system, it dramatically reduces the work of the compliance staff as well as reducing the risk of missed deadlines and other compliance issues. And as a manual stand-alone system, it offers excellent review processes and managerial supervision. The web-based version of the system is much more amenable to the more limited needs and pocketbooks of smaller enterprises while still providing the exceptional overall functionality.

### **2007 Overall Rating: 4.5 Stars**

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