

nowadays .. "have become"

/pres. perfect:
before now //

Before the widespread adoption of cars, people used to walk everywhere, the richer ones could afford a horse or share a carriage. Cities looked differently; all the shops were in walking distance, whereas nowadays, as cars became pretty much a necessity for every family, companies can build their shops further away from the city center. This however means that should you choose to live without a car, your life becomes more complicated. Cars do have some advantages. It has become much easier to visit your relatives, if they live further away. With the number of cars going up all the time, we are starting to struggle with the capacity of our roads. This will probably be one of the biggest problems for humanity in the nearest future.

'increasing'

This isn't bad but
you sort of circumvent the
task which was to deal with
changes in the past ... using
the past perfect + simple past / past continuous -

Thanks, P