# Weathering Economic Uncertainty

Upcoming financial recession could leave a large bank vulnerable

Several years ago, Turkey's economy was facing uncertainty. Akbank, one of the largest banks in Turkey, was in the midst of a digital transformation but also looking for ways they could **limit losses during hard times** and capitalize on growth in good times.

Akbank partnered with Zest to move towards AI powered underwriting. Using Zest's finely tuned, real-time monitoring, Akbank began noticing economic changes and that they became more drastic over time.

Turkey announced a financial recession in March 2019. But Akbank was prepared, having observed early indicators of a looming recession 6 months before announcement. As a result, Akbank was able to **protect their portfolio and reduce non-performing loans by 45%.**
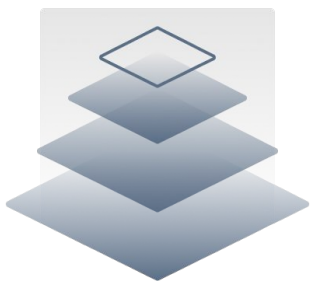
Using 26x more data and AI, Zest replaced dozens of linear regression models across 5 of the bank's product lines. This made Akbank's underwriting became **more accurate and easier to manage.**

Zest was able to **help streamline Akbank's models and their entire model development process.** What used to take 10 months to retrain and deploy a model now takes 3 months with Zest.
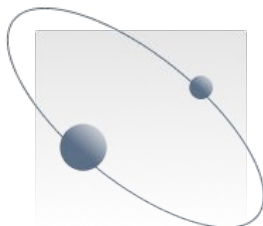
The Zest AI Advantage

More data, better math, and smarter software delivers better results for every lending objective.

6 mth
Forewarning of looming recession before official announcements

45%
Reduction in non-performing loans

7 mth
Decrease in time to retrain and build new models

100%
Increase in "no-credit history applicants" approval rate

"By switching to [Zest AI] for credit underwriting, Akbank can find more good borrowers with no added risk and react faster to changes in the market."

Hakan Yilmaz
Head of Credit & Model Risk Management

AKBANK