02_network_construction_and_feature_engineering

July 25, 2025

Purpose: This cell is dedicated to importing all the necessary Python libraries and modules required for the entire modeling and evaluation phase.

Code Functionality:

- It imports **pandas** (**pd**) for data manipulation, **numpy** (**np**) for numerical operations, and **matplotlib.pyplot** (**plt**) and **seaborn** (**sns**) for data visualization.
- Key machine learning modules from **sklearn** are imported: LogisticRegression for the baseline model, StandardScaler for feature scaling, and various metrics functions from **sklearn.metrics** for comprehensive model evaluation.
- xgboost.XGBClassifier is imported, anticipating its use in enhanced models.
- warnings.filterwarnings('ignore') is used to suppress warnings, providing a cleaner output during execution.

Output Analysis: This cell does not produce any direct console output; its purpose is to make the necessary libraries available for subsequent code execution.

Purpose: This cell defines the core configuration parameters that control the data loading, splitting, and prediction horizon for the modeling phase.

Code Functionality:

• PROCESSED_DATA_PATH: Specifies the file path to the final_prepared_data.csv generated in Notebook 01.

- **PREDICTION_HORIZON**: Set to 6, indicating that the model will predict recessions occurring within the next 6 months.
- TRAIN_END_DATE: Sets the cutoff date for the training set (2000-12-31).
- VALIDATION_END_DATE: Sets the cutoff date for the validation set (2010-12-31).

Output Analysis: The output confirms the starting of the modeling phase and explicitly states the prediction horizon and the data split dates, ensuring clarity on the experimental setup.

```
PROCESSED_DATA_PATH = 'E:/Project_3/Recession_Prediction_Network_Analysis/data/

final_prepared_data.csv'

PREDICTION_HORIZON = 6 # Months

TRAIN_END_DATE = '2000-12-31'

VALIDATION_END_DATE = '2010-12-31'

print(f"Starting Phase 2: Baseline Recession Prediction Model with a__

$\inp \{\text{PREDICTION_HORIZON}\}\-\month \text{ prediction horizon."}\)

print(f"Data split points: Train up to \{\text{TRAIN_END_DATE}\}\, Validate up to__

$\inp \{\text{VALIDATION_END_DATE}\}\, Test thereafter."\)

print("-" * 60)
```

Starting Phase 2: Baseline Recession Prediction Model with a 6-month prediction horizon

Data split points: Train up to 2000-12-31, Validate up to 2010-12-31, Test thereafter.

Purpose: This cell is responsible for loading the clean, pre-processed, and feature-engineered data from Phase 1, which will serve as the input for the machine learning models.

Code Functionality:

- The code attempts to load the CSV file specified by PROCESSED DATA_PATH.
- It dynamically identifies the index column and sets it as the DataFrame's index, parsing it as datetime objects. The index is then renamed to 'Date', and its frequency is set to 'ME' (Month End).
- Robust error handling (try-except) is implemented to catch FileNotFoundError or other exceptions during the loading process.
- After successful loading, it prints the data range, total number of rows, and displays the head and info of the DataFrame.

Output Analysis: The output confirms successful data loading from 1961 to 2025 with 774 rows. The .head() and .info() commands verify that all 48 features and the 'Recession' target column are present and contain no null values.

```
[3]:  # Load the final prepared data try:  # Dynamically find the date column name, which might be 'Unnamed: O'
```

```
temp_df = pd.read_csv(PROCESSED_DATA_PATH)
    ACTUAL_DATE_COLUMN_NAME = temp_df.columns[0]
    df ml = pd.read_csv(PROCESSED_DATA_PATH, index_col=ACTUAL_DATE_COLUMN_NAME,_
  →parse_dates=True)
    df ml.index.name = 'Date' # Rename the index to 'Date' for consistency
    df_ml.index.freq = 'ME' # Ensure month-end frequency is set
    print(f"Successfully loaded data from: {PROCESSED_DATA_PATH}")
    print(f"Data range: {df_ml.index.min()} to {df_ml.index.max()}")
    print(f"Number of rows: {len(df_ml)}")
    print("\nInitial df_ml head:")
    print(df_ml.head())
    print("\nInitial df_ml info:")
    df_ml.info()
except FileNotFoundError:
    print(f"Error: {PROCESSED_DATA_PATH} not found. Please ensure your_
 ⇒processed data from Phase 1 is saved correctly.")
    print("Exiting Phase 2 execution.")
    exit()
except Exception as e:
    print(f"\nAn error occurred during loading: {e}")
    print("Please check the column names in your CSV file and ensure the L
 ⇔correct 'index_col' is used.")
    exit()
print("-" * 60)
Successfully loaded data from:
E:/Project 3/Recession Prediction Network Analysis/data/final prepared data.csv
Data range: 1961-01-31 00:00:00 to 2025-06-30 00:00:00
Number of rows: 774
Initial df_ml head:
            T10Y3MM_mom_change T10Y3MM_yoy_change T10Y3MM_roll112_mean \
Date
1961-01-31
                           0.0
                                               0.0
                                                                    1.67
1961-02-28
                           0.0
                                               0.0
                                                                    1.67
1961-03-31
                           0.0
                                               0.0
                                                                    1.67
1961-04-30
                                                                    1.67
                           0.0
                                               0.0
1961-05-31
                           0.0
                                               0.0
                                                                    1.67
            T10Y3MM_roll12_std ICSA_mom_change ICSA_yoy_change \
Date
1961-01-31
                           0.0
                                            0.0
                                                              0.0
1961-02-28
                           0.0
                                            0.0
                                                              0.0
1961-03-31
                           0.0
                                            0.0
                                                              0.0
```

```
1961-04-30
                           0.0
                                             0.0
                                                              0.0
                           0.0
                                             0.0
                                                              0.0
1961-05-31
            ICSA_roll12_mean ICSA_roll12_std UNRATE_mom_change \
Date
1961-01-31
                    204000.0
                                                         0.000000
                                           0.0
1961-02-28
                    204000.0
                                           0.0
                                                         4.545455
1961-03-31
                    204000.0
                                           0.0
                                                         0.000000
                                           0.0
1961-04-30
                    204000.0
                                                         1.449275
1961-05-31
                    204000.0
                                           0.0
                                                         1.428571
            UNRATE_yoy_change ...
                                  INDPRO_roll12_std CPILFESL_mom_change \
Date
1961-01-31
                    26.923077
                                            0.596117
                                                                 0.325733
1961-02-28
                    43.750000
                                            0.584275
                                                                 0.000000
                    27.777778 ...
1961-03-31
                                            0.550235
                                                                 0.324675
1961-04-30
                    34.615385
                                            0.494213
                                                                 0.00000
1961-05-31
                    39.215686 ...
                                            0.438425
                                                                 0.000000
            CPILFESL_yoy_change CPILFESL_roll12_mean CPILFESL_roll12_std \
Date
1961-01-31
                       0.983607
                                             30.666667
                                                                   0.088763
1961-02-28
                       0.653595
                                             30.683333
                                                                   0.093744
1961-03-31
                                             30.708333
                       0.980392
                                                                   0.108362
1961-04-30
                       0.980392
                                             30.733333
                                                                   0.115470
1961-05-31
                       0.980392
                                             30.758333
                                                                   0.116450
            SP500_mom_change SP500_yoy_change SP500_roll12_mean \
Date
1961-01-31
                    6.315605
                                      11.095123
                                                         56.115833
1961-02-28
                    2.686954
                                      13.043478
                                                         56.725833
1961-03-31
                    2.553592
                                      17.564144
                                                         57.535833
1961-04-30
                    0.384261
                                      20.121388
                                                         58.447499
1961-05-31
                    1.913949
                                      19.219050
                                                         59.341666
            SP500_roll12_std Recession
Date
1961-01-31
                    2.256656
                                     1.0
                    3.092449
                                    1.0
1961-02-28
1961-03-31
                    3.871343
                                    0.0
                    4.320161
1961-04-30
                                    0.0
1961-05-31
                                    0.0
                    4.811621
```

[5 rows x 49 columns]

Initial df_ml info:

<class 'pandas.core.frame.DataFrame'>

DatetimeIndex: 774 entries, 1961-01-31 to 2025-06-30

Freq: ME

Data columns (total 49 columns):

pata #	Columns (total 49 columns):	Non-Null Count	Dtype
		Non-Null Count	Drype
0	T10Y3MM_mom_change	774 non-null	float64
1	T10Y3MM_yoy_change	774 non-null	float64
2	T10Y3MM_roll12_mean	774 non-null	float64
3	T10Y3MM_roll12_std	774 non-null	float64
4	ICSA_mom_change	774 non-null	float64
5	ICSA_yoy_change	774 non-null	float64
6	ICSA_roll12_mean	774 non-null	float64
7	ICSA_roll12_std	774 non-null	float64
8	UNRATE_mom_change	774 non-null	float64
9	UNRATE_yoy_change	774 non-null	float64
10	UNRATE_roll12_mean	774 non-null	float64
11	UNRATE_roll12_std	774 non-null	float64
12	PERMIT_mom_change	774 non-null	float64
13	PERMIT_yoy_change	774 non-null	float64
14	PERMIT_roll12_mean	774 non-null	float64
15	PERMIT_roll12_std	774 non-null	float64
16	UMCSENT_mom_change	774 non-null	float64
17	UMCSENT_yoy_change	774 non-null	float64
18	UMCSENT_roll12_mean	774 non-null	float64
19	UMCSENT_roll12_std	774 non-null	float64
20	VIXCLS_mom_change	774 non-null	float64
21	VIXCLS_yoy_change	774 non-null	float64
22	VIXCLS_roll12_mean	774 non-null	float64
23	VIXCLS_roll12_std	774 non-null	float64
24	USALOLITONOSTSAM_mom_change	774 non-null	float64
25	USALOLITONOSTSAM_yoy_change	774 non-null	float64
26	USALOLITONOSTSAM_roll12_mean	774 non-null	float64
27	USALOLITONOSTSAM_roll12_std	774 non-null	float64
28	PCE_mom_change	774 non-null	float64
29	PCE_yoy_change	774 non-null	float64
30	PCE_roll12_mean	774 non-null	float64
31	PCE_roll12_std	774 non-null	float64
32	CPIAUCSL_mom_change	774 non-null	float64
33	CPIAUCSL_yoy_change	774 non-null	float64
34	CPIAUCSL_roll12_mean	774 non-null	float64
35	CPIAUCSL_roll12_std	774 non-null	float64
36	INDPRO_mom_change	774 non-null	float64
37	INDPRO_yoy_change	774 non-null	float64
38	INDPRO_roll12_mean	774 non-null	float64
39	INDPRO_roll12_std	774 non-null	float64
40	CPILFESL_mom_change	774 non-null	float64
41	CPILFESL_yoy_change	774 non-null	float64
42	CPILFESL_roll12_mean	774 non-null	float64
43	CPILFESL_roll12_std	774 non-null	float64

```
44 SP500_mom_change
                                  774 non-null
                                                  float64
 45 SP500_yoy_change
                                  774 non-null
                                                  float64
    SP500_roll12_mean
                                  774 non-null
                                                  float64
 47 SP500_roll12_std
                                  774 non-null
                                                  float64
 48 Recession
                                  774 non-null
                                                  float64
dtypes: float64(49)
memory usage: 302.3 KB
```

Purpose: This cell prepares the dataset for machine learning by defining the feature set (X) and creating a future-looking target variable (y). It also handles any infinite values that may have arisen from feature engineering.

Code Functionality:

- Target Creation: A Recession_future column is created by shifting the original Recession column upwards by PREDICTION_HORIZON (6 months).
- Initial Processing: The original Recession column is dropped to prevent data leakage, and rows with NaN (from the shift) are removed.
- Infinite Value Handling: np.inf values are replaced with np.nan and then dropped to ensure clean numerical data.
- X and y Definition: X is defined as all columns except Recession_future, and y is set to the Recession_future column, cast to integer type.
- Validation: The code prints the shapes, heads/tails, and class distribution of X and y to verify the process.

Output Analysis: The output confirms that a few rows were dropped due to NaN/inf values. The shapes of X (766, 48) and y (766,) are shown. The class distribution reveals a significant imbalance, with recessions accounting for only 11.10% of the target data.

```
y = df_ml_processed['Recession_future']
y = y.astype(int)
# Print shapes and distributions for verification
print(f"Shape of X: {X.shape}")
print(f"Shape of y: {y.shape}")
print(f"\nClass distribution of y (0=No Recession, 1=Recession in next⊔
 →{PREDICTION_HORIZON} months):")
print(y.value_counts())
print(f"Percentage of recession periods in target: {y.
 ⇒value_counts(normalize=True).get(1, 0) * 100:.2f}%")
# Sanity check for NaNs
if X.isnull().sum().sum() == 0:
    print("\nNo NaN values found in features (X).")
else:
    print("\nWARNING: NaN values still present in features (X).")
print("-" * 60)
```

```
Step 2.1: Defining Features (X) and Target (y)
Dropped 2 rows containing NaN/inf values after feature engineering.
Shape of X: (766, 48)
Shape of y: (766,)

Class distribution of y (0=No Recession, 1=Recession in next 6 months):
Recession_future
0 681
1 85
Name: count, dtype: int64
Percentage of recession periods in target: 11.10%

No NaN values found in features (X).
```

Purpose: This cell performs a chronological split of the dataset into training, validation, and test sets. This method is essential for time-series forecasting to prevent data leakage from the future into the past.

Code Functionality:

- Data is split based on the TRAIN_END_DATE and VALIDATION_END_DATE.
- The shapes and target class distributions for each split are printed to confirm the partitioning.
- All split datasets are saved to separate CSV files for reproducibility.

Output Analysis: The output clearly outlines the periods and shapes of each dataset: Training (480 rows), Validation (120 rows), and Test (166 rows). It also shows the percentage of recession

periods in each set, highlighting the severe class imbalance in the test period (1.20%).

```
[5]: #--- Step 2.2: Time-Series Split for Training, Validation, and Testing ---
     print("\nStep 2.2: Time-Series Split for Training, Validation, and Testing")
     # Split the data chronologically
     X_train = X[X.index <= TRAIN_END_DATE]</pre>
     y_train = y[y.index <= TRAIN_END_DATE]</pre>
     X_val = X[(X.index > TRAIN_END_DATE) & (X.index <= VALIDATION_END_DATE)]</pre>
     y_val = y[(y.index > TRAIN_END_DATE) & (y.index <= VALIDATION_END_DATE)]</pre>
     X_test = X[X.index > VALIDATION_END_DATE]
     y_test = y[y.index > VALIDATION_END_DATE]
     print(f"Training period: {X_train.index.min()} to {X_train.index.max()}")
     print(f"Training set shape (X, y): {X_train.shape}, {y_train.shape}")
     print(f"Train target distribution (1s): {y_train.value_counts(normalize=True).
      \rightarrowget(1, 0) * 100:.2f}%")
     print(f"\nValidation period: {X_val.index.min()} to {X_val.index.max()}")
     print(f"Validation set shape (X, y): {X_val.shape}, {y_val.shape}")
     print(f"Validation target distribution (1s): {y_val.
      →value_counts(normalize=True).get(1, 0) * 100:.2f}%")
     print(f"\nTest period: {X test.index.min()} to {X test.index.max()}")
     print(f"Test set shape (X, y): {X_test.shape}, {y_test.shape}")
     print(f"Test target distribution (1s): {y_test.value_counts(normalize=True).
      \rightarrowget(1, 0) * 100:.2f}%")
     # Save the split datasets for potential later use
     X train.to csv('E:/Project 3/Recession Prediction Network Analysis/data/X train.
      ⇔csv')
     y_train.to_csv('E:/Project_3/Recession_Prediction_Network_Analysis/data/y_train.
      ⇔csv')
     X val.to csv('E:/Project 3/Recession Prediction Network Analysis/data/X val.
     y_val.to_csv('E:/Project_3/Recession_Prediction_Network_Analysis/data/y_val.
      ocsv')
     X_test.to_csv('E:/Project_3/Recession_Prediction_Network_Analysis/data/X_test.
      ⇔csv')
     y_test.to_csv('E:/Project_3/Recession_Prediction_Network_Analysis/data/y_test.
     print("\nSplit datasets saved to the data folder.")
     print("-" * 60)
```

```
Step 2.2: Time-Series Split for Training, Validation, and Testing Training period: 1961-01-31 00:00:00 to 2000-12-31 00:00:00

Training set shape (X, y): (480, 48), (480,)

Train target distribution (1s): 12.50%

Validation period: 2001-01-31 00:00:00 to 2010-12-31 00:00:00

Validation set shape (X, y): (120, 48), (120,)

Validation target distribution (1s): 19.17%

Test period: 2011-01-31 00:00:00 to 2024-12-31 00:00:00

Test set shape (X, y): (166, 48), (166,)

Test target distribution (1s): 1.20%

Split datasets saved to the data folder.

Split datasets saved to the data folder.
```

Purpose: This cell performs feature scaling on the split datasets and then initializes and trains the baseline Logistic Regression model.

Code Functionality:

- Feature Scaling: A StandardScaler is initialized. It is fit_transformed on the training data X_train and then used to .transform() X_val and X_test, preventing data leakage.
- Model Training: A LogisticRegression model is initialized with class_weight='balanced' to counteract class imbalance. The model is then trained (.fit()) on the scaled training data.

Output Analysis: The output confirms that features have been scaled and shows the head of the transformed X_train_scaled DataFrame. It also confirms that the Logistic Regression model was trained successfully.

Step 2.3: Model Selection & Training (Baseline Logistic Regression)

Features scaled using StandardScaler (fitted on training data).

```
Training Logistic Regression model...

Logistic Regression model trained successfully.
```

Purpose: This cell evaluates the performance of the trained Logistic Regression model on the validation set using various metrics and visualizations.

Code Functionality:

- **Predictions**: Generates binary predictions (y_val_pred) and class probabilities (y_val_prob) on the scaled validation set.
- Metric Calculation: Prints a classification_report (precision, recall, F1-score) and calculates the roc_auc_score.
- Visualizations: Plots the Confusion Matrix, Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) Curve, and Precision-Recall Curve to visually assess model performance.

Output Analysis: The model shows reasonable performance on the validation set. The ROC AUC Score is **0.8427**. For the recession class (1), precision is 0.50 and recall is 0.48, indicating it correctly identified about half of the recessions in this period. The generated plots provide a visual confirmation of these metrics.

```
[7]: # --- Step 2.4: Model Evaluation on Validation Set (Logistic Regression) ---
print("\nStep 2.4: Model Evaluation on Validation Set (Logistic Regression)")

# Predictions on the validation set
y_val_pred = log_reg_model.predict(X_val_scaled)
y_val_prob = log_reg_model.predict_proba(X_val_scaled)[:, 1]
```

```
print("\n--- Logistic Regression Validation Set Performance ---")
# Classification Report
print("\nClassification Report:")
print(classification_report(y_val, y_val_pred))
# ROC AUC Score
roc_auc = roc_auc_score(y_val, y_val_prob)
print(f"ROC AUC Score: {roc_auc:.4f}")
# Confusion Matrix
print("\nConfusion Matrix:")
cm = confusion_matrix(y_val, y_val_pred)
disp = ConfusionMatrixDisplay(confusion_matrix=cm, display_labels=log_reg_model.
 ⇔classes_)
disp.plot(cmap=plt.cm.Blues)
plt.title('Confusion Matrix - Validation Set')
plt.show()
# Plotting ROC Curve
fpr, tpr, _ = roc_curve(y_val, y_val_prob)
plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))
plt.plot(fpr, tpr, color='darkorange', lw=2, label=f'ROC curve (area = {roc_auc:
 ↔.2f})')
plt.plot([0, 1], [0, 1], color='navy', lw=2, linestyle='--')
plt.xlabel('False Positive Rate')
plt.ylabel('True Positive Rate')
plt.title('Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) Curve - Validation Set')
plt.legend(loc="lower right")
plt.grid(True)
plt.show()
# Plotting Precision-Recall Curve
precision, recall, _ = precision_recall_curve(y_val, y_val_prob)
plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))
plt.plot(recall, precision, color='blue', lw=2, label='Precision-Recall curve')
plt.xlabel('Recall')
plt.ylabel('Precision')
plt.title('Precision-Recall Curve - Validation Set')
plt.grid(True)
plt.legend(loc="lower left")
plt.show()
print("-" * 60)
```

Step 2.4: Model Evaluation on Validation Set (Logistic Regression)

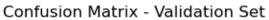
--- Logistic Regression Validation Set Performance ---

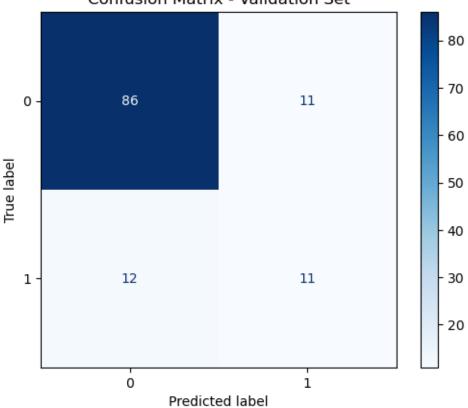
Classification Report:

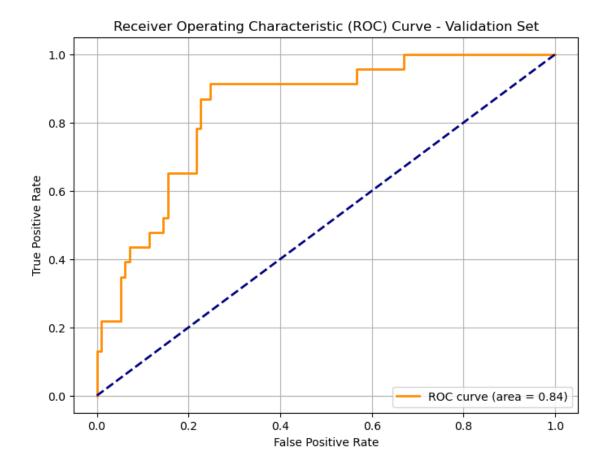
	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.88	0.89	0.88	97
1	0.50	0.48	0.49	23
accuracy			0.81	120
macro avg	0.69	0.68	0.69	120
weighted avg	0.81	0.81	0.81	120

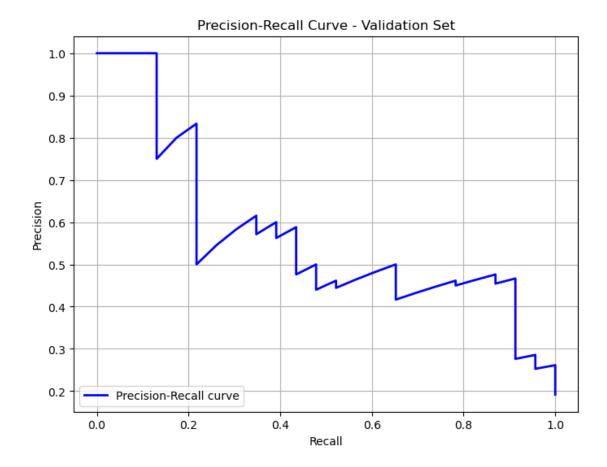
ROC AUC Score: 0.8427

Confusion Matrix:









Purpose: This cell conducts the final, unbiased evaluation of the baseline model on the test set, providing a realistic assessment of its generalization performance on unseen data.

Code Functionality:

- **Predictions**: Generates binary predictions (y_test_pred) and class probabilities (y_test_prob) on the scaled test set.
- Metric Calculation: Prints a classification_report and calculates the roc_auc_score for the test set.
- Visualizations: Plots the Confusion Matrix, ROC Curve, and Precision-Recall Curve for the test set.

Output Analysis: The baseline model's performance degrades significantly on the test set. The ROC AUC Score is **0.5488**, which is close to random guessing. The classification report shows that both **precision and recall for the recession class (1) are 0.00**, meaning the model failed to identify any of the true recessions in the test period. This poor result highlights the limitations of the baseline model and motivates the need for the enhanced models in the next phase.

```
[8]: | # --- Step 2.5: Model Evaluation on Test Set (Logistic Regression) ---
     print("\nStep 2.5: Model Evaluation on Test Set (Logistic Regression)")
     # Predictions on the test set
     y_test_pred = log_reg_model.predict(X_test_scaled)
     y_test_prob = log_reg_model.predict_proba(X_test_scaled)[:, 1]
     print("\n--- Logistic Regression Test Set Performance ---")
     # Classification Report
     print("\nClassification Report:")
     print(classification report(y test, y test pred))
     # ROC AUC Score
     roc_auc_test = roc_auc_score(y_test, y_test_prob)
     print(f"ROC AUC Score: {roc_auc_test:.4f}")
     # Confusion Matrix
     print("\nConfusion Matrix:")
     cm_test = confusion_matrix(y_test, y_test_pred)
     disp_test = ConfusionMatrixDisplay(confusion_matrix=cm_test,__
      display_labels=log_reg_model.classes_)
     disp test.plot(cmap=plt.cm.Blues)
     plt.title('Confusion Matrix - Test Set')
     plt.show()
     # Plotting ROC Curve
     fpr_test, tpr_test, _ = roc_curve(y_test, y_test_prob)
     plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))
     plt.plot(fpr_test, tpr_test, color='darkorange', lw=2, label=f'ROC curve (area_u
      ←= {roc_auc_test:.2f})')
     plt.plot([0, 1], [0, 1], color='navy', lw=2, linestyle='--')
     plt.xlabel('False Positive Rate')
     plt.ylabel('True Positive Rate')
     plt.title('Receiver Operating Characteristic (ROC) Curve - Test Set')
     plt.legend(loc="lower right")
     plt.grid(True)
     plt.show()
     # Plotting Precision-Recall Curve
     precision_test, recall_test, _ = precision_recall_curve(y_test, y_test_prob)
     plt.figure(figsize=(8, 6))
     plt.plot(recall_test, precision_test, color='blue', lw=2,__
      ⇔label='Precision-Recall curve')
     plt.xlabel('Recall')
     plt.ylabel('Precision')
     plt.title('Precision-Recall Curve - Test Set')
     plt.grid(True)
```

```
plt.legend(loc="lower left")
plt.show()
print("-" * 60)
```

Step 2.5: Model Evaluation on Test Set (Logistic Regression)

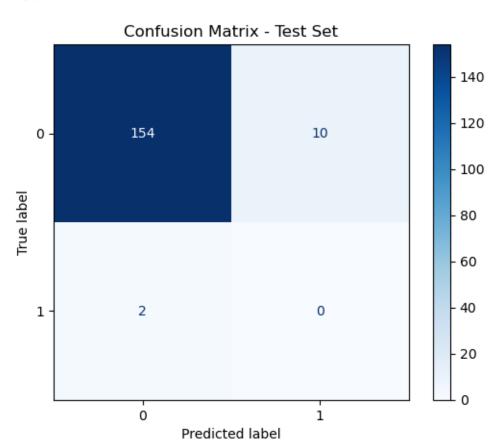
--- Logistic Regression Test Set Performance ---

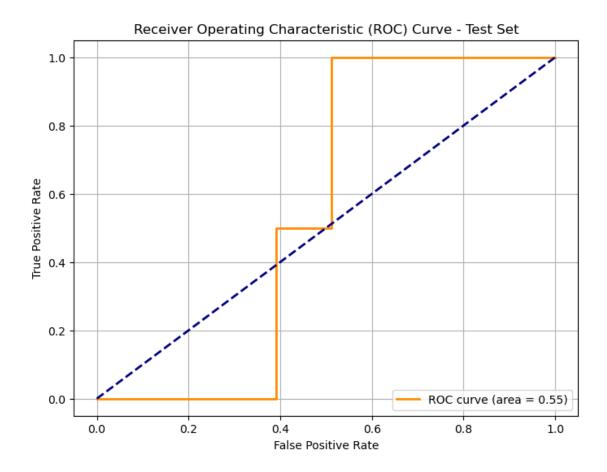
Classification Report:

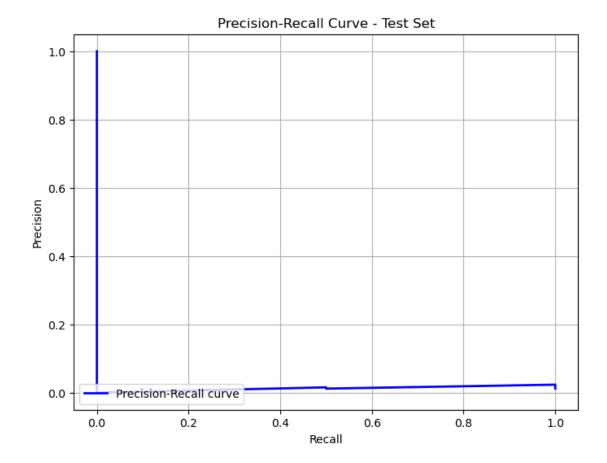
	precision	recall	f1-score	support
0	0.99	0.94	0.96	164
1	0.00	0.00	0.00	2
accuracy			0.93	166
macro avg	0.49	0.47	0.48	166
weighted avg	0.98	0.93	0.95	166

ROC AUC Score: 0.5488

Confusion Matrix:







0.0.1 Phase 2: Baseline Model Summary

Metric	Validation Set	Test Set
Accuracy	0.81	0.93
ROC AUC Score	0.8427	0.5488
Recession Recall	0.48	0.00
Recession Precision	0.50	0.00

Interpretation:

• Validation Set: The Logistic Regression model showed a decent ability to predict recessions on the validation set, with an ROC AUC of 0.8427. However, its recall (0.48) and precision (0.50) for the recession class indicate that it only correctly identified about half of the actual recessions and had a 50% false positive rate when predicting one.

• Test Set: The model's performance significantly degraded on the unseen test set. While overall accuracy remained high at 0.93, this is misleading due to the extreme class imbalance. The critical metrics, Recall and Precision for predicting a recession, dropped to 0.00. This means the baseline model failed to identify any actual recessions in the test period. The ROC AUC score of 0.5488, barely above random chance, confirms its poor generalization.

This stark difference in performance underscores the challenge of predicting rare events and highlights the necessity of the enhanced models and features explored in the subsequent phases.