Yes, `ifconfig` is largely considered deprecated in modern Linux distributions.

Here's a breakdown of why and what to use instead:

- Deprecated Status: Many Linux distributions, including major ones like Red Hat Enterprise Linux (RHEL) and Arch Linux, have moved away from `ifconfig` in favor of the `ip` command suite. The `net-tools` package, which contains `ifconfig`, hasn't been actively maintained upstream for many years (its last significant release was in 2001).

- Reasons for Deprecation:
  - Limited functionality: `ifconfig` lacks full support for modern networking features like IPv6 and network namespaces, which are crucial for technologies like containers.
  - Inconsistent syntax: `ifconfig` often requires different commands and syntaxes for various network configurations (e.g., `ifconfig` for interface configuration and `route` for routing).
  - Less flexible: It uses `ioctl` system calls, which are less flexible than the `netlink` socket mechanism used by the `ip` command.

- The `ip` Command (iproute2 suite): The `ip` command, part of the `iproute2` package, is the recommended and more powerful replacement for `ifconfig` (and other older tools like `route`, `arp`, and `netstat`). It offers a unified and hierarchical syntax for managing network interfaces, IP addresses, routing tables, and more.

- Key advantages of `ip`:
  - Comprehensive: Handles all network configurations, including interfaces, addresses, routing, tunnels, and network statistics.
  - Modern feature support: Fully supports IPv6, network namespaces, and other advanced kernel features.
  - Consistent syntax: Uses a more logical and consistent syntax across its various subcommands.
  - Actively maintained: The `iproute2` package is actively developed and receives updates and bug fixes.

- Transitional Period: While `ifconfig` is deprecated on Linux, you might still find it installed on some systems or in older documentation. However, it's highly recommended to learn and use the `ip` command for network management in Linux moving forward.

In summary, while `ifconfig` might still work on some systems, it's an outdated tool. The `ip` command is the modern, powerful, and actively maintained alternative for network configuration in Linux.